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REVIEWS

Historical Essay on the Bards, Jongleurs, and Trouveres, Norman and Anglo-Norman. By the Abbé De la Rue.

[Concluding Notice.]

The work of Geffry of Monmouth, when presented by "Master Wace" to knight and lady in their vernacular tongue, excited a general desire to know more of the famous Arthur and his companion knights; and, in modern phraseology, "the supply was soon equal to the demand." It would be an interesting, though laborious task, to trace the additional and increasing glories with which each succeeding Trouvere embellished his subject, and to ascertain from what sources they were derived. But this would carry us far beyond all reasonable limits, and would require much research, since, as our author remarks, "most of those who have hitherto treated of the subject, have afforded but imperfect views, either because they contented themselves with slightly reading over modernized versions, or confined themselves to the prose romances of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries; or even if they did attempt to derive their information from whence alone it can be availably obtained—the genuine remains of the metrical romances of chivalry,—they were either imperfectly acquainted with the "langue romaine," or repelled by the length of some of these works from giving them adequate attention."

From the information, however, which we have been able to collect on this subject, it appears that the romances relating to King Arthur and his knights may be divided into two classes: the first, those which relate the various chivalrous exploits of his knights and himself; and the second, those which describe the journeyings and perils of the knights, who devoted themselves to the quest of the San Graal,† that holy vessel upon whose surpassing brightness none but the pure in deed and in heart might look. It is gratifying to the English reader to find that in both these classes, the secular and the religious romances of the middle ages, Englishmen took the lead. Lucas de Gast, who resided near Salisbury, first presented the romance of Tristan to the world. It was, however, in prose, and Chretien de Troyes versified it about the year 1170. Walter Map, archdeacon of Oxford and grand chanter of Lincoln, also an Englishman, about the same period wrote his 'Roman des diverses quêtes du St.

Graal,' in which the chief heroes of romance, Lancelot, Ywain, Gawain, Caradoc, Galaad, Bort, and Percival, that most worthy of knights, who alone was honoured with success in the search, appear. This romance was also written in prose: a singular circumstance, for Walter Map wrote verse, and it was put into metre by Chretien de Troyes. Plantagenet, to whom this work was dedicated, was so pleased with it, that he requested a continuation; and then Walter Map wrote 'La Mort d'Arthur,' as a conclusion of the history of the Round Table. Another favourite romance is also attributed to the prolific pen of this writer, the 'Lancelot du Lac.' At the same period Robert de Borron wrote another romance of the San Graal, and also that of Merlin, founded upon Geffry of Monmouth's less known work, his 'Vita Merlini.' Ely de Borron, a relative of the preceding writer, composed 'Palamedes,' a romance of the Round Table, although bearing a Greek name; and subsequently, Robert and Ely de Borron, in conjunction with Rustician de Pise, composed the romances of 'Meliadus' and 'Giron le Courteis.' Another, composed about the same period, if not rather antecedent, was 'Le Chevalier au Lion,' of which that admirable tale, 'Ywain and Gawain,' is believed to be a close translation. While some have assigned this favourite romance to Chretien de Troyes, others have considered it as belonging to Wace, and as one of those "romances learned and rare," which he himself tells us he wrote. So far as we can judge of it in its English dress, we feel half inclined to attribute it to the latter; for in the spirited conduct of the story, and vivid, though simple description, with which it abounds, we almost imagine we can recognize his hand.‡ In all these romances, even modified as most of them remaining are, by double translations and

adaptations to the tastes of later times, we find each knight possessing distinctive characteristics, and each performing a specific part. Now, as scarcely any of these knights are even named in the "British history," from whence were the tales relating to them derived? We have seen that the traditions of Bretagne centre almost wholly in Arthur, while in the traditions of Wales, many warriors divide with him the praise of the bard: and these warriors bear the same names, and are distinguished by the same characteristics, as the chief knights of the Round Table; thus Gawain, constantly celebrated in romance for bravery and courtesy, is termed in the Welsh triads "one of the three golden tongued heroes of Britain," and his singular prowess is alluded to, in more than one bardic remain. Ywain, the hero of the romance 'Le Chevalier au Lion,' is represented in Welsh poetry as a most distinguished warrior, and is termed "Ewein of the mighty stroke;" his lady is Eluned, who possessed a ring that would render the wearer invisible; and this lady, under the Gallicised name of *Lunette*, and this self-same ring, figure in the Anglo-Norman romance. His father was Urien, says the Trouvere, a king distinguished for his chivalry;—now the mighty deeds of Urien Reged, the father of Ewein, are celebrated by Taliessin; and it is amid the ruins of his once hospitable stronghold, that Lywarch Hen pours forth his beautiful lament, 'The deserted hearthstone.' Tristan, that knightly minstrel, whose gift of song is celebrated in every romance, is placed among the bards in the Welsh triads; while Sir Karados *brise bras*, a name sufficiently expressive of his peculiarly warlike character, is known in Wales by the equally expressive title, so similar in sound, Caradoc *freich fras* (strong-armed). This knight, who is termed "one of the three darlings of Arthur's court," and upon whom Arthur himself is said to have composed a stanza, in which he terms him "the pillar of Wales," is represented as married to a lady who possessed "the three rarities of which she was alone reputed worthy,—her mantle, her golden goblet, and her knife." In the old French lay, 'Court-mantel,' it is the lady-love of Sir Karados alone, whose purity in deed and thought allowed her to carry away the magic robe. In the old English ballad, 'The Boy and the Mantle,' the reader will find that all the three "rarities" mentioned above, are the rewards of "Sir Cradock" and his lady; while in the 'Lai du Corn,' probably the earliest French version of the story, and which was composed by an English Trouvere in the thirteenth century, Robert Bikes, it tells how Sir Karados alone stood the test of the magic horn, that would yield its sweet music only to the touch of him who was loyal in deed and heart to his lady-love. As this lay has never been published, and as the description of this faerie horn is very minute, we have "done into English" the opening passage,

† After a careful examination of 'Ywain and Gawain,' which the reader will find in the first volume of Ritson's collection, we must express our surprise that any writer should have assigned it a date so modern as the reign of Richard II. The style and phraseology far more resemble that of the romances of the thirteenth than of the fourteenth centuries, while every incident and every allusion is in strict keeping with even a yet earlier period. The rigour with which the feudal law is enforced, and the unrestrained authority of the King over his vassals, suits far better with the reign of Plantagenet, than with that of a king who lost his throne through popular hostility; while the descriptions both of dress and armour, closely correspond with the costume of the twelfth century. As armour during the middle ages was constantly changing its form, and, as it is well known that both Trouveres and Illuminators always adopted the reigning fashion, descriptions of armour more, perhaps, than anything else, seem to us to afford undeniable proofs of the date of a romance. Now in 'Ywain and Gawain,' plate armour is never mentioned, but in more than one place the writer remarks that the "haubkerks" were "at to torn," a sure proof that the body armour must have been "twisted mail." The visor of the helmet, too, is never mentioned, but Ywain is represented as striking off Sir Kay's helm with such force, that it is driven into the ground; an equal proof that the helmet intended by the writer, was the conical steel cap of the twelfth century. Early in the thirteenth, the visor came into use, and the first representation of it, in our recollection, is that on the reverse of Henry the Third's great seal. We would recommend 'Ywain and Gawain' to notice, as an admirable tale of early feudal times, and as abounding in romantic incident.

‡ It may be as well to mention that the San Graal was believed to be a vessel of glass, or, according to some, emerald, from which our Saviour drank at his last supper. This precious relic, according to the Anglo-Norman version, was brought to England by Joseph of Arimathea, and deposited in the abbey which he founded at Glastonbury—the Avalon of romance. Some of these romances of the San Graal seem strictly allegorical; the vase is the gift of eternal life, and the lions, giants, and various dangers which beset the knight in his way, the trials and temptations which the Christian meets with, and which he must overcome. In this class of fiction, consequently, Tristan and Lancelot, valiant knights as they were, are foiled, because of their sins; and Sir Percival alone, like Christian in the Pilgrim's Progress, attains the promised reward.

Arthur is keeping high court at Caerleon, when there entered a page—

Full young was he,
Well attired, and fair to see,
On a pacing palfrey borne;
In his hand he held a horn,
Decked with twice two golden bands,
All ywrought by skilful hands,
Many a jewel there was set,
Mid the gold-wrought work yfete;
Beryl, sardius, fair to see,
And the choise chalcedony,
And it was made of ivory,
O! such a horn you ne'er might see,
Nor aught so noble, aught so fair;
And by a ring of silver rare
Was it fastened, and around,
Five score bells gave pleasant sound;
Bells of gold, right pure and fine,
For in the days of Constantine
A learned scribe, bold and wise,
Did this goodly horn devise;
And its purpose I will tell,
(Softly, but she made it well.)
For who'er with finger free
Touched that horn,—deliciously
Then those hundred bells would sound.
O! harp or viol ne'er was found
So sweet, nor voice of girls, nor she
The famous siren of the sea,
Ne'er warbled half so witchingly.

In his conclusion he tells us—

At Cirencester, in the hall,
Aye, at each high festival,
That fairie horn ye still may see,
So Robert Bizek telleth ye.

And surely such a voucher was quite enough to confirm the wavering faith of the hearer.

These coincidences, to which we have just referred, seem accountable, we think, on no other ground than that of the incorporation of the peculiar traditions of Wales with those of Bretagne. Arthur was already, in Breton history, installed sole monarch of the realms of chivalry, the tale of his gorgeous coronation, and his institution of the Round Table, had already spread throughout England and Normandy; nor could the traditions, though probably more correct, of the Welsh bards, disown him; but when the Trouveres, who sung his deeds in the castle hall of Earl Robert of Gloucester, whose court many a Welsh bard visited, or in those of the powerful Earls of Chester and Hereford, both lords wardens of the marches of Wales, when these Trouveres became acquainted with the various tales concerning Ywain, Gawain, and Caradoc, they gladly incorporated them into the romances of chivalry, because, as traditions belonging to the history of the self-same people, and to the self-same struggle against the invading Saxons,—above all, as involving the self-same supernatural agency, because, derived from the self-same source, the Celtic mythology, they harmonized completely with the Breton tales already presented to the world,—they were, in fact, portions of the same traditionary remains.

But while to the romances of chivalry our forefathers listened with untiring delight, these amusing, and often beautiful, fictions were far from forming the whole literature (even poetical) of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Benoit St. More, a contemporary of Wace, wrote a history of the dukes of Normandy, which, from the few extracts that have been published, seems deserving of the attention of the antiquary. It was to this Trouvere, too, that our forefathers first owed "the tale of Troy divine" in their acquired tongue—the Norman French; and that he gave "a full and particular" account of it, may be believed, from the circumstance of the work, which is in the Harleian collection, consisting of 30,000 lines. As no part of it has ever been published, we should

think that some extracts might repay the trouble of transcription—it would be curious to see the fierce Grecian heroes displaying the gentler qualities of the "Cristen knyghte." The following description of spring is pleasing, and, although in the present day the images are such as would probably present themselves to every writer acquainted with modern poetry, yet the reader must bear in mind that seven centuries ago they might advance a claim to originality.

When the wintry time had past,
And soft summer came at last,
With gentle breezes, sweet sounds bringing
Of thrush, and finch, and blackbird singing,
And wood and mead with verdure gay
Were clothed, and budded forth each spray,
And the sweet rose her perfume shed,
And every spring flower blossomed.

The following earnest exhortation to learning will surprise those of our readers who may not be aware in what high estimation learning was held in the courts of Beauclerc and Plantagenet; the lines afford also a favourable example of the condensation of his style:—

Hear, and see, and learn, and do,
Mark, retain, and so shall you
Find, that save the learning prize,
None are valiant, prompt, or wise.
Those men are mild, and courteous, too,
Masters of arts, of learning, who,
But for the knowledge they have gained,
And various reading well retained,
What had they been, manly pretence,
But churls, withouten soul or sense?

While Benoit St. More was thus offering wholesome instructions to the high-born, Guichard de Beaulieu, from his obscure cell, was inculcating the simple doctrines of the Gospel; and, with a rude force of painting which reminds us of Piers Ploughman, he denounced the tyranny of the rich barons, and warned them of a coming judgment. The following lines have a touching simplicity—we think we have heard the fragment of an old Christmas Carol which bears a strong resemblance to them. As Beaulieu was a priory, dependent upon St. Alban's, it is not improbable that this portion of Guichard's "Sermon" might have been "Englished" at a very early period, for the benefit of the peasantry around.

'Twas not in castle large and high, nor tower of royal name,
That our dear Lord was sheltered, when to this earth
he came:
It was beneath a wretched roof, where swains their
oxen fed,
And where their crib and manger stood, all old and
ruined
That He, who all things governeth, first laid on earth
his head.
Nor tapestried room had he, nor bed, with gold wrought
fetuously;
Nor coverlid of marten soft, nor ermine pall had he,
But He who all from nothing called, aye he who keeps
them all,
Lay as a little infant there beside the oxen's stall—
Full meekly clad within the crib,—for linen raiment
none,
Nor silken robe, our lady had, wherewith to clothe her
son;
And there he lay, the oxen by, the shepherds close
beside,
Our lady bending over him, and Joseph by her side.

Another ecclesiastic, Simon du Fresne, Canon of Hereford, hitherto known to the English reader by his English name, Simon Ash, about the same period translated Boethius into French verse, while another, Guillaume Herman, an Anglo-Norman, wrote several religious poems, some legendary and some didactic. At the request of Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln, who died in 1147, he undertook a "Task." This was, to make a poem on three things, "smoke," "rain," and "woman"—the three things which, the prelate asserted, "drove a man

from his house." But Herman did not choose to incur the anger of the ladies by treating this very unpromising subject in the way that the bishop meant, so he made an ingenious allegory, in which he represented Heaven as the home, and smoke as pride, rain as covetousness, and woman as worldly pleasure; the three chiefs which hinder man in his pursuit of the heavenly inheritance. Poetry, at this period, seems, indeed, to have been greatly cultivated by the priesthood. Ger vase Pont de Maxence, toward the close of this century, put into verse a Life of St. Thomas à Becket, which he read publicly at his shrine; while one of St. Thomas's successors in the primacy, no other than the celebrated Stephen Langton, was, in his earlier years, as distinguished for his poetical talents, as, in his later years, for his noble stand for freedom. There is a poem of his, in a dramatic form, in which "Justice and Truth, and Mercy and Peace, are debating as to the punishment due to man after the fall;" and another on the Passion of our Saviour. The attention of M. de la Rue was first attracted to the poetical works of Stephen Langton, from the circumstance of having found a verse of French poetry which served as a text, in a Latin sermon of that prelate, and which is apparently devoted "to the honour and glory" of the Virgin Mary. This verse, which is singularly graceful, M. de la Rue considers was Langton's composition: we should much have liked to have read the whole song; it appears, however, that only the first verse remains—this is it:—

Alice the fair in the morn arose,
Donning her garments fetuously;
Straightway into her bower she goes,
Five flowrets chuseth she,
Of the lily and rose beyond compare,
Meet chaplet I trow for her sunny hair,
For fairest of all is she.
But O sweet May, turn those eyes away.
Alas! thou lovest not me.

We think that a sermon upon such a text must have been intended for St. Valentine's day.

While the clergy were providing all kinds of religious instruction in verse, the laity were not idle. Toward the close of the twelfth century, a new class of romances, which, during the two following centuries were very popular, those of Alexander the Great, appeared. Several Anglo-Norman Trouveres adopted this subject, and a very amusing paper might be given on the various romances of Alexander alone; our limits, however, will not allow us to enter on the subject, nor on that of the genuine English romances, Horn, Bevis of Hampton, and Guy of Warwick, which, although referring wholly to Englishmen, exist in French verse, and form a pleasant subject of debate to antiquaries who have leisure for the task, as to whether they originally appeared in French or English.

But, leaving these voluminous romances, we must turn to the poems of, perhaps, the brightest ornament of the thirteenth century, Marie de France. This writer, of whom nothing is known, save that she was both highly praised and bitterly envied by her contemporaries, and that she wrote both her lays and her fables in England, where she enjoyed munificent patronage, was, until the time of Mr. Tyrwhitt, only known as the translator of Esop's Fables. He first pointed out her volume of lays in the Harleian

collection, which, from subsequent inquiries, have been proved to be unique. These lays, which, together with her fables, M. Roquefort published a few years since, are said by her to have been derived from Breton sources, and form a very curious and amusing collection of tales, related with singular grace, pathos, and simplicity. M. de la Rne combats the opinion that she was not a resident in England, by showing how frequently she gives the English name of persons or things as well as the Breton; and from the circumstance of her declaring in her prologue, that she had given up the thoughts of translating from Latin authors, because so many other Trouveres were occupied in the same task, he proves that she must have flourished in the reign of Henry III., and most probably resided at his court. We shall, we think, be better able to afford our readers a specimen of her easy and simple style of narration, by confining our extracts to one of those lays, than by giving shorter extracts from several; and we select 'Lanval,' not only because we consider it one of the best, but because it affords a graceful specimen of the Middle Age faerie tale.

Lanval, a Breton knight, brave, courteous, and handsome, was yet neglected by King Arthur, who, when, at Pentecost, he gave gifts to his knights, passed him over. Vexed at his repeated slights, and especially this last, Lanval sorrowfully departed from Caerleon, little heeding whither he went. His good steed, however, carried him far into the forest, until he came to a fair meadow bounded by a clear river, when suddenly he began to tremble, and could proceed no farther. Lanval now dismounted, and laid himself down to sleep, when behold! two damsels, richly attired, came from the opposite side of the river and summoned him to the presence of their lady. They conducted him to a rich tent, within which "la pucelle, fairer than the flower of the white thorn," was seated. And then, with true faerie feeling, for the faerie is always ready to succour the distressed, she told him that she had witnessed his harsh usage, and that little need he regard it, since, provided he would never speak of her, she would be evermore near him, though invisible to others, and be his own lady-love. Lanval now returned to Caerleon, wealthy beyond every other knight, though none could tell whence his wealth came, and long time passed on, and he still kept the faerie's secret. At length Arthur's queen, who, both in lay and romance, bears a very bad character, marvelling that so gallant a knight could be insensible to her charms, pursued him with sarcasm. Long time he bore it, but at length he declared that the meanest damsel of his lady-love was lovelier and more graceful than the queen: and then he hastened home, sad at heart that his secret had been told:—

Alas! he felt full bitterly
That he had lost his sweet ladye,
Because he boasted foolishly,
So, in a chamber all alone,
Right mournfully he made his moan,
And called, and called her o'er again,
But still his calling was in vain.
And then he mourned his fate, and sighed
At hundred times, "Merci, Merci!"
Will not my lady think on me?
And then he cursed his mouth and heart
That o'er such words from his lips should part,
And lay so racked with cruel strife,
I marvel he did not end his life.

But the faerie came not, and King Arthur is only restrained from putting him to death for treason to his queen, by the prayers of his knights, that Lanval shall be kept in prison until the lady be found, and compared with the Queen. Time flies, but she comes not, and at length Arthur determines he shall die. The day arrives, Arthur is seated on the right in his hall, when two damsels, dressed in scarlet, and riding on milk white steeds, appear. They enter the palace, and make their obeisance to the king. Two others, yet more lovely, follow, in robes embroidered with gold, and riding on "mules of Spain." At this sight Gawain hastens to Lanval, and tells him his lady is come. Lanval just lifts his head, and sorrowfully answers, he never saw either of the ladies before. The remainder of the tale shall be told in words as close to the original as a translation can be made, since it gives a vivid picture of a high-born dame in the 13th century:—

Soon in the palace-hall they stood,
And hailed the king in courteous mood;
While many pressed around and gazed,
And at their beauty stood amazed,
And thought of Lanval's words with glee,
"To each the queen might handmaid be."

The elder with bland courtesy,
Gave thus her message speedily—
"Sire, bid your vassals prepare
Fit lodging for my lady fair,
For she is coming here to thee."

Arthur directs the damsels to be led within,
and, again urged by the queen, proceeds to pronounce judgment:—

But through the town fresh tidings go
Of greater marvels still, for lo!
A lady on her palfrey's seen,
O none so fair on earth I ween;
And on the snowy steed's advancing,
With fair-arched neck, and white feet prancing,
A gaudier steed ye ne'er could see,
And decked and trapped so gorgeously,
That soothly monarch, rich and high,
Those gallant trappings ne'er might buy,
For he could ne'er the price command.
Unless he sold or pledged his land.
But, O! the lady, clad was she,
In robes as white as white could be,
And laced with care her under vest,
Showed seemly shape and swelling breast.
And whiter was her neck than snow
That crests with dazzling white the bough;
Hazel her eyes, her forehead fair,
Sweet mouth, and features regular,
And shadowy lashes; while, o'er all,
Her blond and crisped tresses fall;
O fair in sooth was she; and o'er
Her vest a crimson pall she wore;
A merlin on her wrist was tied,
And a fair greyhound ran beside.
And far and wide the tidings rung,
And high and low, and old and young,
Together ran right joyfully
To gaze upon that bright ladye,
All spellbound with her witcherye.
Then Lanval lifted up his head,
"By my halidome, 'tis she, 'tis she!
O if she had not come to me,
My life e'en now were forfeited."
The dame is to the palace gone—
There never entered fairer one:
She leapt from off her milk-white steed—
She flung aside the crimson weed
That all encompassed her limbs, and now
Before the king, with queen's brow,
She stands in all her beauty's sheen.
"O, fairer dame can ne'er be seen!"
Each noble cried—and Arthur too
Must yield, for none that dame could view,
But must performe allow it true.
And now she spoke, "Sire, thy vassal,
Behold him here, yight Lanval,
Whom much I love, hath suffered long;
Both cruel slight, and grievous wrong;
From thy false queen hath he sustained;
But, that his claim may be maintained
To truth of speech, behold me here,
And now acquitted by each peer,
Let him from scathe assailed be."
"He is, he is!" right joyfully
The nobles cried;—that bright ladye
Then turned to see who would remain,
Though Arthur and his noble train
Prayed her to taste their courtesy.
Outside the hall, for riders, lay
A homeblock huge, of marble grey;

There Lanval stood, but when he spied
His faery lady near his side,
On the swift steed he sprung behind,
And they have vanished like the wind.
In Breton lay 'tis said they won
In joy and bliss in Avalon;
That to that isle so passing bright
The faerie led her well-tried knight.
I know not, sooth how this may be,
I tell just what was told to me.

The reader will observe from this specimen how little "working up" there is, and apparently how little effort. It is this simplicity that renders Marie's version of Esop's Fables, which she undertook at the request of Henry the Third, extremely pleasing; and we regret that our limits will not allow us to insert a specimen.† In passing on to other Trouveres of this century (the 13th), we must make room for a specimen of descriptive poetry of Chardry, an English Trouvere, born in Gloucestershire, and who was the author of several poetical works of great merit: one of his shorter pieces is entitled 'Le petit Pilot,' and is a discussion between a young man and an old man upon the pleasures and sorrows of life. The young man, one summer's day, wanders to an orchard: the description will remind the admirer of Chaucer of a very similar passage in his 'Flower and the Leaf'; indeed, the heartfelt gladness with which all the poets of the middle ages celebrate "sunny glades" and "bright fountains," prove them to be the poet fathers of our Spensers, and Miltons, and Wordsworths:—

In an orchard large and fair
The young man wandered here and there,
Then sat him down a fount beside,
Whence bubbled forth a sparkling tide
Of crystal waters wide o'erspread,
Which along its pebbly bed,
Flowed with gentle murmuring,
As it were a living thing;
And around the thick grass sprang
With many a gem-like flower among,
Besprinkled, and the trees so high
Might well the summer heat defy;
And 'twas a pleasant cooling shade
Those interlacing branches made,
And many a little bird was winging
His flight to that fair spot, and singing
For joy of flower, and grass, and tree,
Glad was that young man's heart, and he
Rejoiced with all around.

With the commencement of the following century, the taste for allegorical poems sprung up. Our indefatigable author has collected notices of several, composed by Norman and English Trouveres. One of these, a religious allegory, entitled, 'Le Chastel d'Amour,' was composed in the preceding century by Robert Gros Tête, the celebrated Bishop of Lincoln. Adam de Raymont gave a poem, entitled, 'L'Arbre d'Amour,' and Jean de Courcy, another very long allegory, 'Le Chemin de Vaillance.'

Of Trouveres, who wrote only smaller poems, the list is extensive; and we find among them some very distinguished names: Cœur de Lion, Savary de Mauléon, too, whose evil deeds were brought before the notice of our readers in the review of the Patent Rolls, was a writer of songs and sirventes; it does not appear, however, that any of his productions are remaining. Sir Johan Gower, to whose graceful "ballads" we called the attention of our readers some time since, holds high place among them, and so does the Duke of Orleans, who, taken prisoner at Agincourt,

† The lays are accompanied by a *prose* version, by M. Roquefort, which will enable the reader of modern French to read the story, but it gives no notion whatever of the graceful simplicity of Marie's style. Indeed, we never before felt so forcibly the great superiority of the ancient French over the modern, as when we compared the *prose* version with the original.

endured a long captivity in England. Although we have almost exceeded our limits, we must make room for the following playful little song, since the poems of this prince are scarcely known :—

'Ware the casement, gallant youth,
As along the street ye go;
They above have little ruth,—
Cross-bow, arbalist, in sooth
Shoot not deadlier bolts below.
Aye, beware when open flies
The lattice, and those radiant eyes
Rain their deadly shafts around,
Onward go, nor upward cast
One look, that look may be your last,
As many a gallant knight hath found.
But, if heedless on ye go,
Not unwarned are ye; for know,
Wounds of cross-bow leech may cure;
But, if struck by witching eyes,
Heaven alone can aid—he dies,
For his doom is sure.
Then 'ware the casement, gallant youth,
As light-hearted on ye go;
Damsels have but little ruth;
Cross bow, arbalist, in sooth,
Shoot not deadlier wounds below.

We now conclude, and we need not offer an apology for bringing before our readers, although at some length, specimens of these tales and romances, which, centuries since, were listened to with eager delight around the Christmas hearth.

Here we had, finally as we supposed, closed our notice, when in looking over the pages of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, we read an account of the death of the venerable Abbé. "This long celebrated antiquary," says the writer, "was Professor of History in the university of Caen previous to the Revolution; but we believe his first published writings were those which he communicated to the Society of Antiquaries of London during the period of his refuge in England. On returning to France, M. de la Rue resumed the duties of his professorship, and sustained them for many years."

"When Mr. Dawson Turner visited Normandy in 1818, the Abbé de la Rue was resident at Cambre, four miles from Caen, in the chateau of the Marquis de Mathan, to whom he had been tutor. 'When they both took refuge in England, the Abbé was the only protector of his pupil, who now returns the honourable obligation. It is well known,' continues Mr. Turner, 'that the Abbé has devoted his life to the investigation of the antiquities both of Normandy and of the Anglo-Normans. Possessing in a high degree the acute and critical spirit of research which distinguished the French archaeologists of the Benedictine school, we have only to regret, that the greater part of his works yet remain in manuscript. His History of Anglo-Norman Poetry, which is quite ready for the press, would be an invaluable accession to our literature; but books of this nature are so little suited to the taste of the French public, that as yet he has not ventured upon its publication.'

"It was in the same year that Normandy was visited by Dr. Dibdin, who, in his Bibliographical and Antiquarian Tour, has given an account of an interview he had with M. de la Rue. 'The Abbé is,' he says, 'the great archaeological oracle of Normandy. He was pleased to pay me a visit at Lagouelle's. He is fast approaching his seventieth year. His figure is rather stout, and above the mean height; his complexion is healthful, his eyes brilliant, and a plentiful quantity of waving white hair adds much to the expression of his countenance. He inquired kindly after our mutual friend Mr. Douce, of whose talents and character he spoke in a manner which did equal honour to both. But he was inexorable, as to—not dining with me, observing that his Order was forbidden to dine in taverns. He rarely makes visits to Caen, although a great portion of

his library is kept there; his abode being chiefly in the country, at the residence of a nobleman to whose son he was tutor. It is delightful to see a man of his venerable aspect and widely extended reputation, enjoying, in the evening of life (after braving such a tempest in the noon-day of it, as that of the Revolution,) the calm unimpaired possession of his faculties, and the respect of the virtuous and wise."

The work under review, is that referred to by Mr. Turner.

The Angler's Souvenir. By P. Fisher, Esq., with Illustrations by Beckwith & Topham. Tilt.

A Familiar History of Birds. By the Rev. E. Stanley. Parker.

We have rarely seen an English work so elaborately ornamented as 'The Angler's Souvenir'; every page is encircled with characteristic designs. These designs, however, are frequently repeated, and are not altogether to our taste; but, there are a score or more of vignettes, to say nothing of the drawings of flies and fish, many of which are truly exquisite. The literary portion is rather wordy, and somewhat "affectations," but we leave it to be judged by critics more learned than ourselves in the mysteries of hook and line.

The 'History of Birds' is a delightful book, fresh as the hills, and equally well suited for young or old, if the old seek for information. Even the elementary parts, on Classification, Structure, &c. are not without interest, and those more general and descriptive are as pleasant as the Parsonage itself, with its "well-mown lawn," and "within half a stone's throw of the ivy-mantled church." Here is an account of the Starling :—

"Close before the window of our scene of observation, a well-mown short-grassed lawn is spread before him—it is his dining-room; there, in the spring, he is allowed to revel, but seldom molested, on the plentiful supply of worms, which he collects pretty much in the same manner as the Thrush, already described. Close at hand, within half a stone's throw, stands an ivy-mantled parish church, with its massy grey tower, from the turreted pinnacle of which rises a tall flag-staff, crowned by its weathercock; under the eaves, and within the hollows and chinks of the masonry of this tower, are his nursery establishments. On the battlements, and projecting grotesque tracery of its Gothic ornaments, he retires to enjoy himself, looking down on the rural world below; while, at other times, a still more elevated party will crowd together on the letters of the weather-cock, or, accustomed to its motion, sociably twitter away their chattering song, as the vane creaks slowly round with every change of wind.

"We will give a journal of our Starlings' lives. At the close of January, one or two unconnected birds, now and then make their appearance on this weather-cock; at first but for a few minutes, as if, without an assignable reason, they had merely touched upon it as an inviting resting-place, in their unsettled course. In February, if the weather happens to be mild, the number of idlers may possibly now and then increase; but still the visit seems to be but the mere passing call of a few strangers, without a leading object. In March, however, about the first or second week, according to the state of the weather, things begin to assume a more bustling and serious appearance. Hitherto but one or two, or at most three or four, may have dropt in, as if to say, Here we are, the winter is past and gone, a happier season is at hand. But now the flights increase, the three and the four are multiplied to fourteen or sixteen, and the song

becomes a little chorus, more loud and more joyous than before; and occasionally, though at first with some circumspection and hesitation, one or two of the boldest will let themselves gently fall from their airy height, and glide down upon the lawn, as if to inquire into the state of their future larder; for they scarcely take time to taste the hidden treasures below the sod, but looking suspiciously about, are on the wing in a moment, if an inmate approaches the window, or a door is heard to shut or open.

"About the latter end of the second week, affairs begin to be placed upon a more regular footing; the parties on or about the battlements and weather-cock, seem as if they had determined upon a permanent establishment. From early dawn till about ten, there they remain carolling away their communications; at that hour, however, off they go, and till four or five o'clock, are seen no more, throughout the greater part of the day; being absent in the fields, where they may be seen chattering in company with the inhabitants of a neighbouring rookery, or a noisy set of Jackdaws, who have, for time out of mind, been the undisputed tenants of a certain portion of an ancient beech-wood, at no great distance.

"About the third week, the plot begins to thicken still more. The field, the lawn, and the weather-cock, are no longer the only objects of interest. Detachments may be now seen, prowling busily over the roof, cautiously creeping in and out, from under the projecting eaves, and by the end of the month, the regular establishment, amounting to about thirty, has assembled, and the grand work of the year fairly commences. From this time all is bustle; straws, and nest-furniture, are seen flying through the air in beaks, contriving, nevertheless, to announce their comings and goings by particular harsh or low muttering cries, according as they think they are watched or not. They are cunning birds, and discover in an instant, whether a passer-by has an eye to their movements, and perfectly aware whether he is following his own business or theirs. If he steps onwards, without troubling himself about them, they go in and out with perfect unconcern; but if a glance of curiosity or observation is directed to their motions, they are all upon the alert; the bearer of a tuft to the nest, wheels to the right about, and perching on the naked upper twig of a small beech-tree, or the projecting point of a gable-end, sits there, uttering a peculiar note, which seems to give, as well as words could do, intimation to a mate to be on its guard, as a spy is at hand. If the weather is tolerably favourable, every thing goes on smoothly and regularly; but (and we have, in the journal of our Starlings' proceedings, many instances on record,) should a severe and sudden change occur, a violent storm of snow, or continuance of chilling winds, all operations are suspended: not only the eaves, and half-built nests, but even the tower itself, battlements, weather-cock, and all, are deserted, till a return of fine weather, when the Starlings, too, return, and the work again proceeds. At length, the nests are built, the eggs laid, and the young ones hatched. Then a new scene of noise, and activity, and bustle commences, increasing, of course, as the nestlings become older, and more voracious. Then it is that the lawn becomes a favourite resort; hitherto, a few idlers may have hopped and pecked up a stray worm or two, but now the search is a matter of serious occupation.

"Down they come, the sober-coloured hen and the cock, with the sun glittering on his spangled feathers, with claws and beaks as busily employed, as if their very existence depended upon it. All, however, in good social harmony, never quarrelling with the shy and less intrusive Thrush or Blackbird; or with the lively Wagtails, contenting themselves with the

lighter fare of the myriads of minute flies and beetles, hovering over the fresh-mown turf.

"The noise and bustle go on incessantly, till the young ones are fledged, when, for a day or two, they may be seen fluttering about the building, or taking short flights. At length, their strength being matured, old and young collect on the tower, and then wheel away over the neighbouring fields, as if practising for future and more important evolutions. But still the evening finds them roosting near the place of their birth. At last, however, a day comes when all is hushed. No hungry guests are feasting on the lawn, no clamorous throats are calling aloud for food, no twitterings are heard from bough or battlement, not even a straggler is to be seen on the pinnacle of the weather-cock.

"The joyous assembly is broken up. The Starlings are gone, and till the autumn, with scarcely an exception, we shall see them no more. Then, about the third week in September, again on their favourite perch, the weather-cock, one, or two, or three, may chance to appear towards evening, not with the merry note of Spring, but uttering that monotonous, plaintive, long-drawn, whistling cry, as cheerless as the cheerless season, for which they seem to bid us prepare. That these, and the few other stragglers, occasionally occupying the same post, are our Spring friends, is most probable; for a lame starling was observed, for eight years, to return to the same nest, and every observation we have made, tends to prove that this is a general instinctive custom of, we believe, every bird whatever.

"Having thus given some report of our Starlings, for the greater part of the year, we will endeavour to follow the main body for the remaining months as yet unaccounted for. To do this effectually would be no easy matter, as we believe, that they are partially migratory, *i. e.* quitting one part of the kingdom for another, more fitted for their usual mode of life; nevertheless, enough remain within the sphere of our observation, and are to be met with in little flocks, during the summer, in favourite meadows, where food is plentiful, associating with their old friends, the Crows, Rooks, and Jackdaws.

"As winter approaches, however, they follow the example of some other birds, such as Larks, Buntings, &c., and congregate in larger quantities. Not far from the church we have mentioned, there is a considerable sheet of water, occupying nearly thirty acres; flanked and feathered, on the eastern side, by the old beechwood, already spoken of as the abiding place of the Jackdaws. Its western margin is bounded by an artificial dam, which, as the water is upon a much higher level, commands an extensive view over a flat rich country, the horizon terminated by the faint outline of the first range of Welsh mountains. This dam, on the finer evenings of November, was once the favourite resort of many persons, who found an additional attraction in watching the gradual assemblage of the Starlings. About an hour before sun-set, little flocks, by twenties or fifties, kept gradually dropping in, their numbers increasing as daylight waned, till one vast flight was formed amounting to thousands, and at times we might almost say to millions. Nothing could be more interesting or beautiful, than to witness their graceful evolutions.

"At first they might be seen advancing high in the air, like a dark cloud, which, in an instant, as if by magic, became almost invisible, the whole body, by some mysterious watchword, or signal, changing their course, and presenting their wings to view edgewise, instead of exposing, as before, their full expanded spread. Again, in another moment, the cloud might be seen descending in a graceful sweep, so as almost to brush the earth as they glanced along. Then

once more they were seen spiring in wide circles on high; till at length, with one simultaneous rush, down they glide, with a roaring noise of wing, till the vast mass buried itself unseen, but not unheard, amidst a bed of reeds, projecting from the bank adjacent to the wood. For no sooner were they perched, than every throat seemed to open itself, forming one incessant confusion of tongues.

"If nothing disturbed them, there they would most likely remain; but if a stone was thrown, a shout raised, or more especially, if a gun was fired, up again would rise the mass, with one unbroken rushing sound, as if the whole body were possessed of but one wing, to bear them in their upward flight. In the fens of Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire, where reeds are of considerable value for various purposes, the mischief they occasion is very considerable, by bearing down, and breaking them, as many as can find a grasping hold, clinging to the same slender stem, which, of course, bends, and plunges them in the water, from whence they rise to join some other neighbours, whose reed is still able to bear their weight. This perpetual jostling and breaking down, is the probable cause of the incessant clatter, which continues for a considerable time; indeed, till all have procured dry beds, and a firm footing.

"It has been remarked that the flights of these birds have of late years much diminished, a fact to which we can speak from our own experience, for the assemblages which we have just described, as forming so interesting a feature in autumnal evening walks, have long ago ceased; and it is now a rare thing to see a passing flock of even fifty, where, in years gone by, they mustered in myriads."

This is sufficient to give the reader a good idea of the delightful gossip scattered throughout the work; and with one other short extract we must conclude:—

"Piping-Bullfinches, so called from being taught to pipe different tunes, forming a considerable branch of it. In the month of June, the young ones, which are sought for in the nests of wild birds, are taken when about ten days old and brought up by a person, who, by care and attention, so completely tames them, that they become perfectly docile and obedient. At the expiration of about a couple of months, they first begin to whistle, from which time their education begins; and no school can be more diligently superintended by its master, and no scholars more effectually trained to their own calling, than a seminary of Bullfinches. They are formed first into classes of about six in each,—and after having been kept a longer time than usual without food, and confined in a dark room, the tune they are to learn is played over and over again on a little instrument called a bird-organ, the notes of which resemble as nearly as possible, those of the Bullfinch. For a time, perhaps, the moping birds will sit in silence, not knowing what to make of these proceedings, but after a while they will one by one begin to imitate the notes they hear. As soon as they do this, light is admitted into the room, and they are allowed a small supply of food. By degrees, the sound of the organ, and the circumstance of being fed, become so associated, that the hungry bird is sure to imitate the notes, as soon as it hears them. They are then turned over to the care of boys, whose sole business it is to go on with their education, each boy having a separate bird placed under his charge, who plays away from morning to night, or at least, for as many hours as the birds can pay attention, during which time their first teacher or feeder goes his regular rounds, scolding or rewarding his feathered scholars, by signs and modes which he has taught them to understand, until they become so perfect, and the tune, whatever it may be, so imprinted

on their memory, that they will pipe it for the remainder of their lives."

We regret to utter one word of complaint, but many of the illustrative wood-cuts to this work are quite disgraceful.

MEDICAL WORKS.

"*New and Complete Manual of Auscultation and Percussion, applied to the diagnosis of Diseases*, by M. A. Racibowski, M.D. &c. Translated by W. Fitzherbert, B.A."—Many of our non-professional readers have perhaps yet to learn, that a new source of information respecting the internal condition of the living organization, has been opened in the investigation of such sounds as are occasioned by the movements incidental to its functional activity; and that, in a medical sense at least, the window in the breast, so ardently desired by the moralist of antiquity, has been superseded by an acoustic instrument called a stethoscope. The art of using this instrument is called Auscultation; or, to distinguish it from listening with the naked ear, *Mediate Auscultation*. Percussion is a term applied to another process, which consists in drumming with the fingers on parts of the surface of the body, in order to discover from the quality of the resonance, whether any preternatural cavity or solidity beneath does not indicate a change of structure and consequent malady. That certain pathological conditions of the body may be rendered cognizable by such means, is obvious on the first blush: the new methods, indeed, are but extensions of a species of investigation, practised by the ancients themselves, in a few limited cases. Neither can we hesitate to admit that a judicious application of auscultation and percussion will materially assist in giving precision to the diagnosis of many internal maladies. But if a close connexion between certain definable sounds, and corresponding lesions of structure, must be taken as an admitted fact, the value of the indications obtained must still depend to a great degree on the *ratio recipiens*. In practice, all must turn upon the "erudite tact" of the operator's ear; and there will ever be a certain risk of inferring too much or too little from the result. Those, whose senses are naturally dull, and who are unused to mark the minuter shades of sensitive impression, will readily be tempted to undervalue the new art, while those who have acquired, or fancy they have acquired, great delicacy of discrimination, will as readily estimate its results too highly, and become the occasional dupes, as well of their own imagination, as of an ultra-finesse. It is not therefore surprising, that the practitioners of medicine differ widely in their opinions of the extent and certainty of these methods; and that the rival sects of stethoscopists and anti-stethoscopists, should be mutual subjects of sneer and sarcasm. Without ranging ourselves with the ultras on either side, we must take leave to express a doubt of the general power pre-supposed of distinguishing with certainty the minuter differences of sound so elaborately described in works like the one now before us; and also of the uniform identity of the causes which they are presumed to indicate. But of this we are perfectly certain, that a protracted exposure of the person, necessary to enable a consultation of stethoscopists deliberately to survey (if the phrase be allowable,) the whole region of the chest, cannot be endured without considerable risk to the consumptive patient. It is also a further drawback on the utility of such indications, that they refer for the greater part to maladies untractable to treatment, not to say absolutely incurable. We write not these things, as arguing from abuse to use, but merely to impress on the enthusiastic great discretion, both in the use of the scrutiny, and on the absolute reliance on its dictates, to the

neglect or disregard of other sources of information. The toy is a new toy; and there is an air of conjuration in its use, calculated to confer upon the operator an unmerited reputation, that may be turned to the account of *humbug*. The Manual, which has given the occasion for these remarks, is a condensed conspectus of all that has been discovered, or imagined, on the subject. It will spare the perusal of many volumes (principally foreign). The work, therefore, has its utility; but in recommending it to the younger part of the profession, the teacher should not forget to insist on the requisite co-operation of judgment, in the making of every good observation.

'*Manual of Pathology, &c.* by L. Martinet, D.M.P. Translated by Jones Quain, M.D. 4th Edition.'—A very useful companion to the student beginning "to walk the hospitals." It teaches that most invaluable, but rare, art, the art of observation. As, however, it is strictly professional, there is nothing to induce us to enter into a formal examination of its merits or defects.

'*A New Practical Formulary of Hospitals of England, France, Germany, &c.* Translated from the French of MM. Milne Edwards and P. Vasseur, &c. by Michael Ryan.'—This class of works must be in great demand, for they are daily multiplied in every form and variety. If the multitude of tools is a proof of a bad workman, the number of the physician's instruments of practice exceeds that of all other trades. Dr. Ryan, or rather the gentlemen he translates, have travelled far and wide to collect them; and those who do not choose to be slain, like "true-born Englishmen," by native prescription, may provide themselves in his volume with formulae more to their fancy. Jest apart, there is much industry exhibited in this collection; and it contains a brief summary of all that is known of the powerful drugs which chemistry has lately presented in such profusion to the profession. Its views, however, are exclusively therapeutic; the pharmaceutical branch of the subject being omitted, except in as far as the prescriptions themselves may illustrate it.

'*Practical Anatomy of the Nerves and Vessels supplying the Head, Neck, and Chest, &c.* by E. Cock, Demonstrator of Anatomy at Guy's Hospital.'—The merit of such a performance must depend upon the author's familiarity with the objects to be described, and on a certain facility in arranging and communicating his ideas in a lucid and simple style. For Mr. Cock's possession of the first of these requisites, his post of demonstrator at Guy's Hospital is a sufficient guarantee: and for the second, his modest and sensible preface affords a fair presumption. The region he has chosen for illustration is one, not only of vast anatomical importance, but involving matters of great moment to the surgeon and physician, and the physiologist. It must therefore prove an acceptable addition to the library of manuals, with which those who commence their medical studies usually surround themselves.

'*On the Nature and Treatment of Nervous Diseases, with remarks on the efficacy of Strychnine, &c.* by George Russell Mart.'—Are there any over-fed hypochondriacs, or opium-eating, æther-drinking ladies, who have made the unfortunate discovery, that they have got such things as nerves, and that they are very troublesome possessions, we warn them against this volume. There is nothing in it to amuse their idleness, flatter their prejudices, or to assist them in poisoning themselves. Strychnine is a deadly drug, and will "do the needful" much too rapidly for their purpose. Like all other Herculean remedies, Strychnine is suited only to Herculean diseases, and requires to be administered with the hand of a master. Mr. Russell Mart is therefore no market for the

fanciful to deal in. For the rest, the theme is a favourite one with the profession, just at present, and every day produces its essay thereon. Mr. R. M. rates the powers of the drug very high; and his cases in confirmation—but we have long ceased to have any lively faith in documents of that description.

'*An Introduction to Hospital Practice, &c.; being a Chemical Report of Fever, &c. with remarks, by C. J. B. Aldis, M.A. M.B. and L.M.*'—These facts were collected "during the author's attendance on the physicians' practice of St. George's Hospital." He is not therefore responsible for the treatment, nor the physicians for the selection of the cases. How far this practice of publishing other people's cases may be agreeable to the parties concerned, or what the collector may presume "to take by the motion" of publishing them, we will not undertake to decide. All that we feel called upon to notice is, that the book is not intended for general readers; and that it will not be of the slightest use to them. To what class of readers it will be of use, we leave to our contemporaries, who review for the profession, to determine.

'*A Treatise on Hydrocephalus, &c.* by William Griffith.'—Water in the brain is a formidable disease, both in its acute and chronic forms. Its nature and treatment belong rigorously to the profession, and we earnestly entreat such of our readers as are anxious about their own nurseries, not to harass their feelings, nor impede the activity of their medical advisers, in a vain effort to become acquainted with the subject. The perusal of books of intrinsic merit will only infect the parent's imagination; while books composed on the Reading-made-easy system, will lead to dabbling in remedies, which is at least as liable to produce, as to avert, this scourge of early infancy. For this reason we leave Mr. Griffith in the hands of the professional journalists, without further applying ourselves to his monograph.

Malvagna. 3 vols. Bentley.

Plebeians and Patricians. 3 vols. Smith & Elder.

Out of Town. 3 vols. Churton.

We have arranged these several novels in their order of merit; 'Malvagna' is the best of them, and not a bad one, though of the old school. The fault is, that the intricacies and improbabilities of the plot, which, indeed, required more than ordinary power to manage them successfully, are not worked out with clearness and direct purpose.

The title of the second, 'Plebeians and Patricians,' tells its own story; and the reader will naturally and justly infer that there is nothing very new in it. It is, however, written with some spirit, and particular scenes are well enough described, but they incline to caricature.

'Out of Town' ought to have been noticed long since; and, in truth, our apology must be, that we could not say one word in its favour, and, therefore, put it aside at the moment, and afterwards forgot it.

A Voyage round the World. By T. B. Wilson, M.D. Surgeon R.N. Sherwood.

This is a book much more useful to be read, than agreeable. The subject-matter is neither momentous nor interesting, but yet rendered valuable by the truth and strictness of its details. Indeed, the volume offers good evidence how readable almost any writer may make his work, by simple and sound treatment of what he understands about its subject, be it ever so humble. The only mark of pretence we find throughout Mr. Wilson's

work is its title; and even there his candour is spotless in logic and in law, for he did actually perform a voyage round the world though his narrative be wholly confined to one point—Australia. In this respect it somewhat resembles the brick presented as a description of Babylon.

New Holland can supply but lenten entertainment for the general reader, whatever it may for scientific men or settlers. Nor even were materials more abundant, does Mr. Wilson appear to have much genius as a caterer: he is of that dry northern constitution which makes so many of his countrymen respectable, and so few very remarkable. But again we say, whoever would be satisfied to pick up solid grains of truth among the tracts of sand which are to be searched for them, (and truth, like gold, is seldom found by the bushel)—those matter-of-fact people who had rather go a bare path to a sure object, than err delightfully with any traveller,—may have some little of their hearts' content in reading this volume.

Surgeon Wilson set out from Sydney for Batavia in the ship *Governor Ready*, which had been pronounced unsafe, with injustice he generously affirms, though she was wrecked on the voyage. From Torres's Straits, where the false prediction was accomplished, he proceeded in her long boat (which he admits was an unsafe part of her, having from neglect but a worm-eaten apology for a bottom), 1300 miles through one of the most dangerous archipelagos, to the island of Timor, a Dutch settlement. Here he takes ship again for Raffles Bay, our colony on the north coast of Australia, of which he describes the advantages and abandonment. Circumnavigating New Holland still, he touches at King George's Sound, on the south-west coast, and makes an excursion of discovery, which leads him to prefer this to the Swan River as a site for our capital of western Australia. By Bass's Straits he reaches Sydney again; and this is the sum of Mr. Wilson's voyage round the world.

Throughout his not very eventful journey, he is sedulous in nautical observations, and minute in his remarks on savage manners. The former might be turned to excellent account, as, being made with much circumspection, they would serve to rectify in our sea-books various errors, which, indeed, are annually signalized by the loss of numerous vessels and lives. Mr. Wilson's account of the Aborigines is much more favourable to them than to us, whom he seems to prove the greater savages. It appears that a not unusual mode with which we return their greetings, is by a salute of canister and grape-shot: one party, for example, that came down to the shore with the bough of peace in hand, were sent back on the scamper by a volley, to tell their friends the use of conciliation. No wonder if the devil be thought white in those countries! Would we render the savages less barbarous, Mr. Wilson exhorts us to be less so ourselves. It is true he has a better opinion of them than others entertain, who depict them as scarce removed from *ourang-outangs*. But as he has "touched noses" with a great number, and seems not of a disposition to be carried away by romantic attachment for wild men of the woods, like Jean-Jacques or St. Pierre, we are inclined to credit so much cool judgment and experience.

History of the British Colonies. By R. Montgomery Martin. Vol. V. Cochrane & Co.

We have spoken so fully heretofore on the nature and character of this work, that it will be sufficient for us on the publication of this, the fifth and last volume, to state that it contains an account of our colonial possessions in Europe—of the Mediterranean Islands, the Norman Isles, the Isle of Man, and Heligoland.

History of the United States of North America. By James Graham, Esq. 4 vols. Smith, Elder & Co.

This is a laborious work, containing a vast mass of well-digested facts. It may be right, however, to state, that the history concludes just when the United States came into existence—that is to say, when the several provinces of North America threw off their allegiance, and declared themselves independent. The two first volumes were published in 1827, but have since been carefully revised.

My Note-Book. By J. Macgregor. 3 vols. Macrone.

This is a far pleasanter work than we anticipated, when we first saw the turnpike track pursued by the traveller. But Mr. Macgregor is a sensible, unpretending man, and has collected together a good deal of information: the papers on the maintenance of the poor in Holland are particularly valuable. We may hereafter return to this work.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

'Metaphysic Rambles; Stroll the Second.'—Baron Smith, under his nom de guerre, Warner Christian Search, has directed more of the public attention to the "immaterial" controversy than the question is worth. While we admire his playful wit—his refined taste—and his great variety of fanciful illustrations, we cannot but regret that such treasures are wasted on the most profitless question that ever employed "the laborious idleness" of metaphysicians.

'Memoirs of Mr. Matthias D'Amour.'—Mr. D'Amour, it appears, was originally a travelling valet—the happiness of his life was his service in the Gordon family—latterly he kept an eating-house at Sheffield. It is just possible that, under such circumstances, a man might be found who could write, or furnish materials for an interesting volume; but, though the work before us is unpretending and unaffected, there is nothing in it to justify publication.

'Life and Times of General Washington,' by Cyrus R. Edmonds. 2 vols.—Two well compiled and pleasantly written volumes, which cannot fail to be received as a welcome addition to the 'Family Library.'

Volumes of small poetry, those most fruitless of all literary speculations, have accumulated on our hands by the dozen. Some one or two deserve, and shall receive, a somewhat more detailed examination, than we can give to the majority which lie before us.

'Dreams of Liberty,' by a Modern Troubadour.—Alas! for the time of Henry Laud-the-fair, and Pierre de Castelnau, if the singer before us were its worthiest scion. But it is consolatory to know, that they have descendants of greater note, though they may not assume the style and title of the "gay science." There is nothing, however, to offend in the book, save its title.

'Minor Poems.'—The titles of one or two of these, 'Written in Fulham-fields,' 'The Wedding,' 'Friendship,' 'To the Spring,'—will be the safest and gentlest description of them we can offer.

'Tempora Subsecina,' by H. H. Knapp, is a miscellany of an entirely different humour to any of the above: being a book of drawing-room rhymes, on drawing-room themes, with here and there a dash of classical reminiscence and sentiment. We have elsewhere expressed our inclination to keep a corner of our sympathies, even for such butterfly spirits as find their inspiration "in my lady's chamber;" but but then it is only for the best of the tribe that we can make room,—mediocrity in this style of composition being mawkish and insufferable to the last degree. The following verses are a fair specimen of their author's lighter style:

Who, while I taste each dainty dish,
Seasoned to meet a gourmand's wish,
Eats legs of fowls and tails of fish?
My Toady.

Who, when I doze, my elbow jogs?
Who feeds my bull-finch, combs my dogs,
And carries, when I walk, my clogs?
My Toady.

Who, while obtrusive wrinkles say
My charms are sinking in decay,
Vows 'I grow younger every day'?
My Toady.

Who, when my cheeks new tints assume,
Adopted in my dressing-room,
Cries, 'exercise gives such a bloom'?
My Toady.

Who, when to music I'm inclined,
And sing, 'Sweet Home,' or 'Love is blind,'
Cries, 'Pasta! Sontag! both combined'?
My Toady.

Who, when to raise a smile I try
By some trite story, dull and dry,
Laughs till her cracking laces fly?
My Toady.

Who, when my life's gay scene is o'er,
Thinks she'll inherit all my store,
And cringe, and fawn, and sneak no more?
My Toady.

Who'll find by will bequeathed her then,
A vinaigrette, a silver pen,
A muff, a shawl, and three pounds ten?
My Toady.

'Poems of a Traveller,' by the Rev. J. Hartley, M.A.—These are the work of an amiable man, with strong religious opinions, and a disposition to advocate his own particular points of belief. The poems are many of them headed by prose introductions, from one of which we learn, that in Geneva, the stronghold of his creed, it is difficult, if not impossible, to find out the house in which Calvin lived, or the precise spot where he died.

'Poem to the Memory of the late W. Cobbett,' by W. B. Graham.—If the author had intended, in the wisdom of good taste, to conform the style of his lament to the character of the deceased, he would not have opened his poem thus lack-a-daisically:—

Attend, ye matrons and ye mournful swains,
Give ear, ye virgins that adorn our plains.

'The Vision of War, a Poem,' by H. S. Gibson.—We have looked into this closely-printed little tome, without finding a new idea, or passage of versification whereupon to rest; but the preface, the dedication, and introduction, are so naive and national, (their author being an American,) that we are almost tempted to transcribe the last. Space is precious at this time of the year, and we must refrain from extract, however solemn be the absurdity which tempts us.

'Poems,' by Albuis.—These poems appear to be the school exercises of a clever boy, and do not rise above the average merit of such poetry.

'Oceanic Sketches,' by Thomas Nightingale, Esq.—The writer visited the islands in the Pacific, and, though he touches on other matters, and at other places, his object in publication appears to have been a defence of the missionaries: at least, there is so little else in the volume, that we cannot conceive any other motive, unless it were to give currency to the coxcombical portrait prefixed.

'Christian Theology,' by Dr. Adam Clarke, selected by Samuel Dunn.—Selections from Dr.

Clarke's writings need no recommendation; but we may observe, that the memoir prefixed is a well condensed and interesting paper.

'Private Life,' by M. J. Mackenzie. 3rd edit.—We remember to have read this work with great pleasure on its first publication. This was some time before we were installed in our present office. We have once again dipped into it and refreshed our memory, but a third edition is beyond the pale of criticism.

'Panorama of North Wales,' by J. Hemingway.—One of the prettiest little blue-leather books to be seen on a summer's day, with nice cuts, neat type, and for its compiler the historian of Chester, and "late editor of the *Chester Chronicle*." With all these recommendations, it wants only one more to ensure it universal patronage and applause, videlicet, good spelling. The late editor of the *Chester Chronicle* seems to disclaim Welsh extraction, but we cannot help thinking such words as "tumuli"—"rockey"—"chaffing of waves"—"sciare-scuo," betray rather an outlandish origin. Perhaps they are palatine English. But we must still be of opinion that this Doric dialect might as well have disappeared in a "second edition." As to the propriety of arranging a tourist's pocket-companion alphabetically, instead of by routes, we have neither time nor room to discuss or dispute it; but we submit, that such a work is hardly complete without some slight information, botanical, zoological, and geological. In this respect our Panorama is by no means unimprovable; truth to say, it leaves everything to be desired, which, we must acknowledge, is another item that scarce comes into the list of recommendations. Alas! we suspect that in natural history the historian of Chester is no wizard of the Dee. A few terribly mauled passages from Shakespeare and Milton still further diminish our admiration for his learning and his volume.

'Australia.'—*'Napier on Colonization, &c.'*—*'Torrens on Colonization, &c.'*—*'Irwin on Western Australia.'*—All works written with a purpose. Col. Torrens is Chairman of the Board for Colonizing Southern Australia—Col. Napier was to have been Governor of the Colony, but resigned in consequence of some differences of opinion between him and the Board—and Capt. Irwin is himself a settler at Swan River. All are deserving attention by those who have thoughts of removing to the colonies. As, however, Col. Napier touches on other matters, small farms, over-population, and is at least an original thinker, his work may be read by others with interest and satisfaction.

We are happy to announce a third edition of Mrs. Jameson's *'Characteristics of Women'*—and second editions, with additions, of Waddington's *'History of the Church,'* Pearson's *'Memoirs of Swarts,'* Taylor's *'Life of Bishop Heber,'* and the *'Reminiscences of an Old Traveller,'* in which is still retained the abridgment of French history, occupying twenty-six pages out of thirty, all that are devoted to France, including Paris, in a work professedly published to give information as "to expense and mode of travelling on the continent." We may here mention our having received the second edition of a poem, by one of those unlettered minstrels, the existence of whom as a class, speaks so honourably for the mind of the people of England—we allude to Mr. Ragg's *'Martyr of Verulam.'* We have also a very able translation by Mr. Henry Reeve, of *'De Tocqueville's Democracy in America,'* and of *'Marco Fiesconi,'* by Miss Caroline Ward. We noticed both works on first publication, and have therefore only to recommend the present translations to the English reader.

'The Comet,' by John Seares.—This little work is the production of a clever youth, whom injudicious friends are doing their utmost to spoil,

by flattering him into the belief that he is a prodigy, and persuading him to become a teacher, when he ought long to remain a learner. John Seares appears to be a youth of some promise, but before he can become a man of any performance, he will have much to learn, and not a little to unlearn. The latter is far the more difficult task, and he should commence it by resigning the belief that he is yet qualified to appear before the public, either as a lecturer or an author. He will probably deem our sentence harsh, but, ere many years roll over his head, he will see that it was dictated by kindness; unless indeed he be one of those satisfied with the happiness described in the old proverb,

Beati sunt monoculi in urbe cæcorum.

'Bernays' German Historical Anthology.'—We have been much interested by this selection from the most celebrated historians of Germany. Wilken's Crusade of the Children, and Müller's battle of Lempach, are historical gems. It is certainly a great improvement in education, to make students acquainted at once with the language and the best writers that adorn it. The work is apparently designed for those who have made some proficiency in German, as it is but scantily supplied with notes, and the historians are a class of writers requiring even more elucidation than the poets.

'Rice's Initiatory Step to English Composition.'—This is an excellent little work, in which the principles of English grammar, and the structure of our language, are developed with great simplicity and accuracy. The exercises in analysis are especially valuable, and well calculated to form in the youthful mind habits of careful investigation, that will be found of value in every branch of knowledge.

'Smith's Evolution.'—This is a very clear and practical treatise on an important branch of arithmetical science. The author has a just dislike to the pedantic jargon of the schools, and has very unceremoniously discarded the terms "that darken counsel." Every part of the work is simple and explicit, but we were most pleased with the chapter on Fractions, in which their nature and properties, so hard to be understood by young students, are very clearly explained.

'Smith's Chairman and Speaker.'—As we have unluckily fallen upon a debating age, when clubs, societies, councils, committees, and public meetings, assemble to discuss *omne scibile* and something more, it was perhaps, necessary to have some rules for debate prepared. Mr. Smith has collected the regulations most commonly established in deliberative assemblies, and has suggested some useful additions for ascertaining more correctly, the sense (or the nonsense) of a meeting.

'Richson's Mental Arithmetic.'—This work contains sensible and practical rules for expeditiously making the calculations most frequently required in actual business.

'Parker's Exercises in English Grammar.'—A useful little work.

'Sharp's Diamond Dictionary.'—A gay little volume, in green and gold, with forty-five decorations, by William Harvey, from the works of Shakespeare—a strange work for an artist to bestow attention on.

'Cadman's School Stenography.'—Mr. Cadman's system of short-hand seems as good as any in common use, but not better.

'Harivel's Self-Instructor in English and French.'—There is much cleverness shown in the system of instruction devised by Mr. Harivel, but it does not supersede the necessity of a teacher.

'René Aliva's French Language its own Teacher.'—The absurd title of this work is calculated to raise a prejudice against it. This is to be regretted, for it is a judicious guide to the French language: its rules are expressed with

simplicity, and illustrated by appropriate examples. Above all, it is not encumbered with those minute grammatical distinctions, which serve only to perplex the student.

'Rudelle's French Pronouncing Book.'—Pronunciation cannot be learned by rule, but as the examples in this little work are well chosen, it would probably be found useful under the directions of a teacher.

'Schmid's Progressive German Reader.'—One of the best introductory books that has come before us for a long time.

'Uses of the Latin Relative Pronoun.'—Would the author tell us the uses of his pamphlet?

'Early Impressions, by a Lady.'—A tale for the young, written on the well-accustomed moral, that virtue is better than beauty, or wit, or wealth. The truth has been better inculcated by other writers.

'Fructus Experientia.'—A little work, containing many useful hints on domestic education, well deserving the attention of parents and guardians.

'The World of Waters, by C. Williams.'—This is a continuation of a series of books for young people; its information and amusement are conveyed in the form of dialogues.

'Outlines of the History of Judah and Israel.'—Synchronistic tables of the history of these kingdoms on a single sheet, compiled with creditable accuracy.

'The Book of Family Worship.'—The Editor of the Sacred Harp has here collected from our best devotional writers a judicious selection of prayers for every day in the month, and added as an appendix Jeremy Taylor's Sacramental Meditations and Prayers.

'Wood's Scripture Geography.'—The arrangement of this work is excellent; some of the details are too compressed and therefore obscure.

'Althaus' Scripture Teacher's Assistant.'—The Scripture teacher had better be without such an assistant.

'The Child's Help to Self-Examination.'—A series of meditations far beyond the comprehension of children, and by no means remarkable for purity of style or kindliness of spirit.

ORIGINAL PAPERS

ARTIFICIAL PETRIFICATION OF ANIMALS.

A pamphlet has been lately published at Florence, professing to give an account of some strange discoveries by Girolamo Segato, (known by his maps of Tuscany, Africa, and Morocco,) and the general accuracy of which is attested by the principal Professors in that city. The report sets out by stating that, while Segato, in 1820, was traversing the deserts of Africa for the purpose of perfecting his map, he was overtaken, in the valley between the Second Cataract and Mograb, by one of those whirlwinds, or rather sand-spouts, which are not uncommon phenomena in the districts of Upper Nubia. After it had passed, and Segato was boldly following in its track, he discovered, in one of the hollows which the wind had ploughed up, remains of carbonized matter, and, at last, a completely charred body, both the bones and flesh of which were otherwise in good preservation. It struck him instantly that the process of charring could only have been effected by the scorching sand; and that if the heat of the sand had, in this instance, effected the complete desiccation and carbonization of animal substances, might it not be possible to effect something similar by artificial means? On his return to Italy he commenced his practical experiments, and at length succeeded in imparting to the limbs and bodies of animals, solidity and indestructible durability. By this process whole bodies, as well as individual parts, acquire a thoroughly firm consistence,

which is more perceptible and decided according as the respective parts are softer or harder. The skin, muscles, nerves, veins, fat, blood, all undergo this change, without its being necessary to remove the intestines, which assume the same consistence. At the same time the colour, form, and character in general, remain unchanged, and no smell is perceptible; and both limbs and joints remain flexible and moveable as when alive. When bodies have acquired this consistency, neither damp, nor air, nor moths, can affect them; nor, as experiments have proved, do they suffer any injury from remaining under water for several days together. The weight is but very slightly diminished. Not a hair is lost; on the contrary, they are more firmly rooted than ever. Birds and fishes lose neither skin, scales, nor colours, and, in like manner, insects and worms remain in every respect.—Segato's cabinet is said to furnish abundant evidence of this. A canary-bird, which has been ten years in this state, has withstood the attacks of water and moths. In the first year it was placed thirty, and, in the second, above forty days under water; and for a still longer period it was exposed in a box to moths, collected expressly for the purpose. On being taken out, it appeared absolutely uninjured. Similar experiments were made with other animals, and with the like success. The hand of a woman, who died of consumption, exhibits the paleness and emaciation of that fatal disease; and the fingers of a man's hand are perfectly flexible at the joints, and wholly unchanged. A still more remarkable object is a table, composed of 214 pieces joined together. The observer would take them for so many different kinds of stone, and yet they are nothing more than pathological portions of human members!

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP ON LITERATURE AND ART.

ALL the good wishes of this well-wishing season to you, "our worthy masters"! In the spirit of Wolsey we would have ye as merry as "good company, good wine, and good welcome can make good people." And now a word of ourselves: it is a Christmas custom among periodicals, and, though we think it one more honoured in the breach than the observance, there are occasions that justify, and even require, it. We are about to make some change, comparatively trifling indeed, in the externals of the paper, and it may be well to apprise the reader of the nature of it. *The Athenæum*, as is well-known, was projected by others, and in other times—it was, in its youth, distinguished by the ample breadth of its white forehead, its swelling type, its broad wealth in meadows of margin; and all the pomp and circumstance of literary splendour attended its weekly goings forth. It was, we fear, somewhat despoiled of its aristocratic dignity when we came to reform its house, and reduced the taxation which it inflicted on the public, in the way of price—though our predecessors seem to have had a vague suspicion that the true pole of public favour might lie in the direction we have taken, as they were accustomed to announce their Journal as "the cheapest literary paper," and, once a year, magnanimously gave away a half sheet, containing the Title-Page and Index. Since then a change has come over the spirit of the land. It is impossible to look at the number and character of our literary periodicals, and remember what they were, only a few years since, without "mute wonder." If literature have its humanising influences—and who can doubt it?—what mighty engines, for the happiness and improvement of society, are at this moment in operation all over the world! Without stopping to consider critically the character of each, it may be enough to state, that the weekly issue, in Great Britain alone, exceeds half a million! To what extent the example

set by this Journal may have been active in producing this revolution, it is not worth while here to inquire, though it is pleasant to know that there are recorded facts which will live long after we have ceased to be either fooled or flattered by them: and we may further observe, that the best of these, in their several classes, have by far the most extensive sale. The reading public require sterling sense as well as sterling economy, and are no longer such Master Slenders in intellect, as to be gulled into running away with the post-boy under the belief that it was "sweet Anne Page."

In the spirit in which the first change was projected, numberless trifling alterations have been from time to time silently introduced into this Journal; not a single line has for the last twelvemonth been permitted to "waste its sweetness" in desert space, and we now propose to enlarge the printed sheet both in depth and width, and thus, by the present and past changes, more than one-seventh will have been added to the contents of the paper. How then stand the facts: In 1831 we reduced the price from

8d. to 4d. 50 per cent.
This year we have given no less
than nineteen double numbers,
more than 18 per cent.

So that, to speak only of the past, the reader of 1835 has received for little more than *twopence*, an *Athenæum* equal to that for which in 1830 he paid *eightpence*! and by compression and enlargement we now propose to add 15 per cent. more to the contents of the Paper.

It appears by letters from Edinburgh, that the question as to the monument to be erected to Sir Walter Scott is not yet decided. Hitherto, the Committee have limited their consideration to an obelisk or cross, both equally inappropriate. A powerful party, however, are now making way with a proposition for a bronze statue, to be elevated on a lofty pedestal, composed in the style of Raeburn's celebrated picture, and forming a group of Sir Walter and his favourite Dog, to be placed on the old site of the Heart of Mid-Lothian, in the centre space between St. Giles's Church and the County Hall. This appears to be the most reasonable of the propositions suggested, and we anticipate its adoption by the Committee, when they have weighed its merits against the *demerits* of the other two.

We hear from Paris that Mr. Leitch Ritchie has just completed a romance, to be called 'The Magician,' the scene of which is laid in France in the 15th century, and about the close of the English domination there.

Here we bid adieu to the year 1835. We would willingly have closed with a brilliant number, but circumstances have overpowered us: it was absolutely necessary that we should sweep off all arrears, and begin the new year with a clear field. We have, therefore, to apologize for deferring some valuable papers; amongst others, the Abstract of Mr. Porter, 'On the Connexion between Crime and Ignorance,' and the Report of the Meteorological Observations made at the Royal Society on the 21st.

And now we have only to say farewell, and make our best bow to the reader. "And truly," as Hood says in the Preface to the Comic, "of all bowers that ever bowed, including Lord Chesterfield, the Royal inventor of the 'Prince's bow,' the boozing Sir Archy Macsycophant, Tom Moore, and his Bowers of Bundermeer, all the admirals of blue, white, and red, with their larboard bows, and starboard bows, all the bow-loving schoolmasters with their 'Where's your bow?' and finally, Macduff and his whole army, who boughed out Macbeth—of all these, no man ever scraped his foot without a scraper, or bent so agreeably to his own bent, as their very humble obedient servant."

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

ROYAL SOCIETY.

Dec. 17.—The following papers were read; viz.—

1. Researches towards establishing a theory of the Dispersion of Light. No. II. By the Rev. Baden Powell, Savilian Professor of Geometry in the University of Oxford.

2. On the action of Light upon Plants, and of Plants upon the Atmosphere, by Charles Daubeny, M.D. Professor of Chemistry and of Botany in the University of Oxford.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE.

Nov. 26.—Col. Leake, V.P., in the chair.

Mr. Cullimore continued the reading of his memoir 'On the Series of Oriental Cylinders.'

Certain analogies between some classes of these gems, for the most part Babylonian, and the votive Egyptian tablets, were next adverted to, together with the fact, that miniature types of nearly all the most remarkable groups which appear in the sculptures at Persepolis, are to be found in the earlier Babylonian engravings—a decisive indication of the source whence the system of art, displayed in the former, was derived; while these prototypes supply an index to the style of sculpture which adorned the more ancient structures of Babylon, and are in strict agreement with what history has transmitted to us on that point. The principle whereby the several classes may be subdivided, and referred to their relative approximate ages, by the aid of the leading Babylonian series, was then explained; this distribution being facilitated by the prevalence of similar designs, in engravings manifestly of about equal antiquity.

Mr. Cullimore proceeded to show that the cycle of Oriental art and literature represented by these gems, which ascends to the rudest attempts of the first ages, is connected at the other extreme with the period of Macedonian domination in Asia. This fact appears, from the existence among them of a cameo having an engraved inscription in the Babylonian cuneatic character, surrounding a head of Grecian features and workmanship. It agrees with the testimony of Herodotus and Thucydides, that the Assyrian or cuneatic writing was in use as low down as the reign of Artaxerxes Longimanus; and with the Babylonian custom of wearing engraved seals, asserted by Herodotus. The cycle, therefore, includes the lifetime of the Chaldean priest and historiographer Berosus, who flourished from the reign of Alexander to that of Antiochus Theos; as well as the expiring epoch of the city of Babylon, before it and its population became merged in the cities of Seleucia and Ctesiphon. Ascending, again, a little higher, he demonstrated the connexion of the existing Persepolitan sculptures with the best period of this long cycle of the arts, from a beautifully engraved and unique cylinder, purchased by the British Museum at the recent sale of Mr. Salt's Egyptian collection, having a triple cuneatic inscription, identical with a portion of that which appears surrounding the remaining window-frames of the supposed palace of Darius.

The writer here pointed out, as an historical consequence, resulting from his incipient investigation, the decision of a question which has, for centuries, been a source of archaeological dispute, viz. whether the magnificent architectural remains, known to the Orientals as Tchilminar, and to Europeans as Persepolis, are to be referred to King Gjemschid, the supposed author of the Magian Ritual, in the eighteenth century before the Christian era; or to the successors of Cyrus, more particularly to Darius Hystaspes, under whose auspices Zoroaster is agreed to have reformed the Magian rites in the sixth century. For it is evident, that if we raise the best and closing period of our cycle to the former age, its

commencement will ascend nearly to the epoch of creation, and that it will terminate many centuries anterior to the culminating period of Assyrian, Babylonian, and Medo-Persian dominion, religion, art, and literature; and will be totally disconnected with the indices which link its termination to the Macedonian age; whereas, if we admit the structures in question to be of the period of the Achæmenide, all will be consistent and harmonious. The origin of Oriental art will then fall in with that of the arts of Egypt, and with the limits of true history; and its best period will synchronize with the flourishing period of the dominant Asiatic empires, and with all that is related of the palaces of Nebuchadnezzar and Darius—excepting only the report of Diodorus and Strabo, that the latter was raised by Egyptian artificers, which has been, heretofore, the fundamental argument for identifying Tchilminar with Persepolis. It will appear that the system of art, then fully developed, has been confounded with that of its more ancient prototypes already alluded to, and which may, in the age of Darius, have existed in the sculptures or paintings of the Babylonian edifices.

Thus convinced by contemporary records, the writer took occasion to admit the chronological consistency of the principles of interpretation, applied by Professor Grotefend and M. St. Martin to the Persepolitan inscriptions, which he had, on a former occasion, opposed; these principles eliciting the names of the Persian monarchs, Dareiousch (Darius) and Kscherscha (Xerxes), the former of which, if Professor Grotefend be right, actually appears on the Persepolitan cylinder mentioned above.

That the designs of the Babylonian and Assyrian priests and artists not only travelled eastward to Persepolis, but westward to Phenicia, is manifested from a very remarkable cylinder, and a scarabæus; the latter in the British Museum. These are both ornamented with designs nearly identical with those on several original Assyrian cylinders, accompanied by inscriptions in very ancient Phœnician characters; whilst Babylonian designs appear on a variety of medals having Phœnician and Greek inscriptions, as far westward as Carthage, and in Asia Minor, Cyprus, Macedonia, and Sicily. The Oriental origin of the monsters of Grecian fable and sculpture, and, possibly, of Grecian art in general, (which he contended, partakes rather of the Oriental imitative, than of the Egyptian conventional, principle,) is hereby manifested; and, at the same time, a prospect of further aid in the decipherment of cuneatic writing, appears from the fact of inscriptions, in a known character and language, being found, accompanying the same devices to which such inscriptions appear annexed.

Dec. 10.—Col. Leake, V.P., in the chair.

The Secretary read a memoir, by the Rev. George Tomlinson, on a Royal Egyptian Coffin in the British Museum.

The venerable relic, which was the subject of this notice, is the only royal coffin yet discovered; it was purchased for the British Museum, with numerous other articles, in the collection of Egyptian Antiquities belonging to the late Mr. Salt. It is that which the catalogue described simply as "the Mummy of a Priest, in its case;" the inscription, which, on a near inspection, is perfectly legible, having escaped notice, on account of the decayed state of the rich gilding in which the characters were indented: in consequence, the British Museum obtained possession of it for a mere trifle.

The only figures delineated on the coffin are two; they represent Isis and Nephthys making offerings or prayers. Between them appears a single line of hieroglyphics, running (contrary to the usual practice) downwards, from the breast to the feet. The first word is obliterated, but the inscription probably began, as such inscriptions usually do, with the word *Oairis*. The

place which would be occupied by the proper name, if it related to a private individual, is filled by a royal title, which reads, Enantoph, or Eîné-en-top. This inscription, Mr T. interpreted thus: "Osiris, King, Enantoph (or Eîné-en-top), deceased. These images, O offspring of Osiris, King, we give thee, with food, a tomb (or coffin) and vases of aromatic ointment; O, offspring of Isis Nephthys." The inscription on the foot of the coffin is this: "These are figures of Isis and Nephthys. They come to offer prayers to thee, Ruler of Gods, King, Enantoph, deceased." These inscriptions leave no doubt, that the coffin was originally that of the King whose name is inscribed upon it, though it is at present tenanted by the mummy of a priest, of much latter date.

The royal family, in which several persons of this name are found—that of the Osirtens—flourished before the period of the eighteenth dynasty; Enantoph was, therefore, a personage of high antiquity. The lowest date which can, with any probability, be assigned to this interesting relic, is the seventeenth century a.c.

Mr. Tomlinson concluded his memoir with some remarks on the name Enantoph, as it appears in the tablet of Karnac, the result of which seemed to render it certain, that one series, at least, of the long list of royal names in that record, is contemporary with a part of the line of succession in the tablet of Abydos. Mature researches will probably bring out similar results with regard to other series. At all events, these observations proved that it will require something more than the tablet of Karnac to establish the existence of a succession of sixty-four Pharaohs, previous to the time of the Exodus.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

[Continuation (from p. 952.) of Abstract of Papers, read at the meetings of the Society.]

"Note on the Trappean Rocks associated with the (New) Red Sandstone of Devonshire. By Henry T. De la Beche.

"The author remarks, that white trappean rocks are not found among the (new) red sandstone series of Somersetshire and the more northern portions of Devonshire: the southern portions of the latter county afford many examples of the association of trappean rocks with the lower parts of this series, particularly near Tiverton, Thorverton, Silverton, Kellerton Park, Crediton, and Exeter.

"When hastily viewed, the trappean rocks might be mistaken for masses of igneous matter which have been intruded, in a state of fusion, among the beds of red sandstone. A more detailed examination of the various facts connected with their mode of occurrence leads, however, in the opinion of the author, to the inference that they have been produced by volcanic action during the formation of the lower parts of the (new) red sandstone series; in fact, that the trappean rocks in question are the remains of melted rock, either ejected from, or retained within the pipes of, volcanos which were in a state of activity during the production of the lower part of the (new) red sandstone series of Devonshire.

"The author endeavours, in the first place, to point out the relative geological age of the red sandstones and conglomerates with which these trappean rocks are associated in Southern Devon, by showing, that in their continuation to the northward, along the skirts of the grauwacke to the shores of the Bristol Channel, they pass into a series of beds which is crowned by magnesian limestone and conglomerate, equivalent to the magnesian limestone and conglomerate of the Mendip Hills and the vicinity of Bristol. The beds beneath the magnesian conglomerate, which very rarely passes into a magnesian limestone, from the absence of pebbles derived from older rocks, consist, for the most part, of red or claret-

coloured sandstones, with an occasional seam or bed of conglomerate, the cementing matter of which is not calcareo-magnesian. Their thickness is necessarily variable, from the uneven surface of grauwacke, upon which the sandstones rest unconformably; but it amounts to about one hundred and fifty feet in the vicinity of Wiveliscombe. The author points out, by the aid of sections, that the magnesian conglomerate may readily rest upon the grauwacke, and conceal the lower red sandstone series by overlapping it, and that therefore it becomes exceedingly difficult to obtain an average thickness of these lower red sandstones, which, if we consider the magnesian conglomerates of the Mendip Hills as an equivalent of the zechstein of Germany, would be equivalent to the *rothe todte liegende* of the same part of Europe, and therefore be of the same geological age as the lower red sandstones of the North of England described by Professor Sedgwick, and the beds noticed by Mr. Murchison.

"Having thus obtained the relative geological age of the beds with which the trappean rocks are associated, the author proceeds to point out the occurrence of beds of sand among the more common red sandstone, which presents every appearance of having been volcanic sands ejected from a crater, and which became subsequently mixed with common detrital matter then depositing. It is stated that though the trappean rocks may sometimes be seen, as in the vicinity of Exeter, to rest as if they had overflowed the grauwacke which the (new) red sandstone series skirts, they are generally separated from the grauwacke by conglomerates, or sandstones, which do not contain the detrital remains of trappean rocks. Hence the author considers that the (new) red sandstone series of the district generally was, to a certain extent, in the course of formation when the volcanos came into activity.

"A description is given, accompanied by a section, of the manner in which the trappean rocks of Washfield, near Tiverton, are associated with the (new) red sandstone of the same locality, and it is inferred from the facts detailed, that events there succeeded each other in the following order: 1. An original subaqueous valley or depression in the grauwacke. 2. A deposit of detrital matter derived from the subjacent grauwacke. 3. An eruption of igneous substances, in the manner of modern volcanos, beneath very moderate pressure. 4. The deposit of detrital matter, in a great measure derived from the neighbouring grauwacke, mingled with fragments of trappean rocks, many of which may have been ejected, as fragments now frequently are, from volcanic craters. 5. Denudations at various geological epochs since the period of the (new) red sandstone, which have left the rocks as we now find them.

"It is noticed as a fact, which the author conceives to be of difficult explanation without the aid of this volcanic hypothesis, that in the localities where the trappean rocks, associated with the red sandstone, occur, there are numerous angular fragments, some of considerable magnitude, even equal to one or two tons in weight, intermingled with the conglomerates, which do not resemble any trappean rocks discovered, in place, within the district. These fragments principally consist of reddish brown quartziferous porphyry, the base being felspathic, and the contained crystals being those of quartz and glassy felspar, the latter often attaining a large size. Though quartziferous porphyry is observable in place in some situations, as, for instance, to the northward of Dunchideock, near Exeter, it does not contain the large crystals observable in numerous fragments of porphyry included in the red conglomerates. The author, therefore, is inclined to consider, that these angular fragments have been ejected from volcanic vents, and that, falling upon the detrital matter

then in the course of deposition around such vents, they became included among it. It is remarked that these fragments, as well as those of the more common, scoriaceous, and other trappean rocks, found in place, do not form component parts of the red conglomerates beyond somewhat moderate distances, measured from situations where the existence of volcanic vents, during the early part of the (new) red sandstone epoch, may be considered a probable inference, from the various, observed phenomena."

"On the range of the Carboniferous Limestone flanking the primary Cumbrian Mountains; and on the Coalfields of the N.W. Coast of Cumberland, &c. By the Rev. Adam Sedgwick, and William Peile, Esq., F.G.S. of Whitehaven.

"The authors first briefly describe the general relations of the zone of carboniferous limestone (surrounding the primary Cumbrian system) to the central carboniferous chain, and show that this zone has been separated from the central chain by a great downcast fault, described in a preceding memoir. In illustration of this, they give a transverse section from the carboniferous limestone ridge, south of the river Lowther, to the chain of Cross Fell, proving that this low limestone ridge is not connected with the elevated chain, but with some dislocated masses which appear at its base, and dip towards the valley of the Eden.

"They then give a detailed account of the range of the carboniferous limestone from the neighbourhood of Kirkby Stephen to Egremont. Beyond the latter place, patches of limestone are also stated to occur at Mouschole, Kirsanton, and Hodbarrow-Point, giving indications of at least a partial extension of the carboniferous series along the S.W. coast of Cumberland. Lastly, they notice the prolongation of the limestone (chiefly in great detached tabular masses) through Low Furness and a part of Westmoreland, till the broken zone reaches the great downcast fault at the base of Ingleborough.

"They afterwards describe, in considerable detail, the sections exhibited by the carboniferous zone between Kirkby Stephen and Egremont. It is stated that the lower part of the carboniferous limestone corresponds, on the whole, with the great scar limestone of Yorkshire; but it is, here and there, more subdivided by thin beds of shale and by coarse beds of sandstone. Near Hesket Newmarket two or three beds of coal (some of which have been considerably worked) appear in the lower part of the series, offering an analogy to the structure of the central carboniferous chain on its approaching the Scotch frontier. They are stated to thin off in the range towards the west, and the formation to resume its more ordinary characters. The authors then give a section from the rivulet below Cleator through Bigrigg-moor, by which they show, (1.) that the limestone series is there greatly diminished in its aggregate thickness; (2.) that it contains subordinate irregular beds of red hematite (now extensively worked); (3.) that it is separated from the new red sandstone by thin bands of magnesian conglomerate.

"They afterwards describe several sections in an upper division of the series, intermediate between the great scar limestone and millstone grit. The principal details are derived from the Westmoreland range of the limestone, and from the works in the neighbourhood of Caldbeck Fells. In these localities thin beds of coal alternate with the shale and limestone, and have been worked to a considerable extent.

"The millstone grit is ill exhibited along the line of range; but may in some places be concealed under the great accumulation of alluvial matter on the confines of the new red sandstone. The great upper coal formation commences near Rosley, and is greatly expanded in its extension towards the west, so as to occupy the whole

const from St. Bee's Head to Maryport. But all details respecting it are referred to a subsequent communication.

"In the concluding portions of the paper the authors briefly notice the unconformable position of the carboniferous series on the primary Cambrian slates, and the occasional masses of old red sandstone and conglomerate by which, in the eastern part of the range, the two systems are separated from each other.

"Considered in its greatest generality, the carboniferous series is divided into four groups: 1. the great scar limestone; 2. Alternations of limestone, shale, and coal; 3. Millstone grit; 4. Great upper coal formation. The 1st and 4th preserve their characters in a great measure unchanged in all the great carboniferous deposits of England and Wales; the 2nd and 3rd undergo modifications which are briefly enumerated. In Flintshire, Yorkshire, and Cumberland the richest metalliferous veins appear to be in the 2nd group."

"On the occurrence near Shrewsbury of Marine Shells of existing species in transported Gravel and Sand, resting upon a peat bog which contains imbedded Trees. By Joshua Trimmer, Esq.

"In November of last year Mr. Trimmer noticed, that in widening the road about five miles from Shrewsbury, towards Shifnal, some very black timber was extracted from beneath a bed of loam and gravel; and having subsequently examined the spot, he has communicated his observations in this paper.

"Two sections have been cut, to the depth of 15 feet, and are distant from each other about 600 yards. The eastern excavation is 360 yards long, and consists, proceeding from east to west, of 200 yards of sandy loam and gravel; 40 yards of sand resembling sea-sand, the laminae crossing each other in various directions; 60 yards of reddish loam, with curved laminae near its junction with the sand, and horizontal at the lower part, the upper portion not being laminated; and lastly, 60 yards of sandy loam and gravel. Fragments of shells occur in every part of the section, but are most abundant in the veins of fine gravel which pervade the sand: among them the author found *Turritella terebra*, *Cardium edule*, and *Tellina solidula*.

"The western excavation contained fewer shells, and presented near the eastern termination of the southern side: cultivated soil, 1 foot; whitish and reddish finely laminated loam, 6 to 8 feet; peat, with prostrate trunks of oak trees, 6 inches to 2 feet; black clay, 4 inches; whitish sandy gravel, 12 to 18 inches, passing beneath the level of the road into reddish sandy gravel. Still nearer the eastern termination, the section presented thin beds of laminated loam and sand resting on peat. On the southern side this excavation consisted of fine cultivated soil, 1 to 2 feet; sandy loam, with occasionally boulders of several varieties of granite, some more than 2 feet long, and patches of peat, containing fragments of oak, beech, and fir, 6 feet; blackish loam, enveloping the upper part of a fir-tree, 6 inches; peat enveloping the lower part of the fir-tree, 2 feet: the base of this tree was not visible, nor had any trees still rooted been noticed by the workmen. The patches of peat in the bed of loam the author conceives were derived from the tearing up of part of the peat bog.

"From these details the following changes are inferred:

"1st, A surface of dry land, consisting of gravel derived from the neighbouring rocks, either while the district was submarine, or during the rise of the strata, or by subsequent denudation, or by these causes united.

"2ndly, The surface was covered with a forest of birch, oak, and fir.

"3rdly, The forest was destroyed, or it decayed, and a peat bog was formed.

"4thly, A rush of sea buried the bog beneath

a mass of loam and gravel, containing fragments of existing marine shells and granite boulders.

"In conclusion, the author draws attention to the natural sections on both sides of the Severn, west of Shrewsbury, about one mile above the Welsh Bridge, in one of which he obtained, after much search, a few fragments of shells; and he begs geologists in general, both in England and Ireland, to institute a patient examination of the superficial gravel of their neighbourhood for fragments of shells, however comminuted."

"Description of some Fossil Crustacea and Radiata. By William John Broderip, Esq.

"Lord Cole and Sir Philip Egerton having placed in the author's hands some fossils which they had lately found in the lias at Lyme Regis, a detailed account is given, in the memoir, of those which he considers to be new.

"CRUSTACEA.

"The first specimen described consists of the anterior parts of a macrourous Decapod, between *Palinurus* and the *Shrimp* family, but of a comparatively gigantic race; and its organization being considered by the author to be *sui generis*, he has assigned to the fossil the name of *Coleia antiqua*, with the following generic characters:

"*Antennae*. Base of mesial antennae (*antennae interna*) not extending beyond the anterior spine of the thorax; each antenna terminated by two annular setae. External antennae provided with a large and rude scale, and having a spine on the exterior of the penultimate joint: the terminal setae large, but the length undetermined.

"*Eyes* pedunculated, directed outwards, approaching in their situation and form to those of *Palinurus*.

"*Feet*. First pair long, slender; the cubit (*cubitus*) with small spines or serratures on the internal margin, and terminated externally by three strong spines.

"*Hand* (*manus*) elongated, slender; digits slightly incurved, filiform, unarmed, pointed.

"*Thorax* thin (divided transversely by furrows indicating the different regions), tuberculate, spinous at the sides, and with three deep emarginations anteriorly, the middle one the largest; each of the four anterior angles produced into a strong spine."

"The collection contained the remains of other macrourous Decapoda. One of these specimens consisted of a fragment of the post-abdomen, approaching nearest in sculpture to *Palinurus*, and equalling in size the sea crawfish; and two others are peculiarly interesting from their exhibiting the tips of the four larger branchiae, and of the four smaller ones below, pointing towards the situation of the heart, and proving, the author observes, that this Crustacea did not belong to the Amphipoda, but to the highest division of the Macroura, of the arctic forms of which it reminds the observer.

"RADIATA.

"*OPHIURA EGERTONI*. *Oph. Radiis tereti-subulatis, disco subplano, rotundato*.

"This species, Mr. Broderip states, approaches very nearly to the recent *Ophiura texurata*, and differs from *Ophiura Milleri* of Phillips, inasmuch as, among other differences, the disk of the latter is located according to the figure given in the 'Geology of the Yorkshire Coast.' There is no description, but there is authority for considering the figure to be correct, though it is stated to have been drawn from separate parts. The specimens were found about half a mile west of Bridport harbour, in masses of micaceous sandstone fallen from the cliffs.

"*CIDARUS BECHEI*. *Cid. testâ subglobosâ, mammillis parvulis, spinis elongatis, aculeatis*.

"This fossil, the author considers, may be identical with that figured in the Geological Transactions, Second Series, vol. ii., pl. iv., as an *Echinus*."

"On the Discovery of Ichthyolites in the South-western Portion of the North Staffordshire Coal-field. By Sir Philip de Malpas Egerton, Bart., M.P.

"The part of the coal-field in which the ichthyolites occur, is called Silverdale, and consists of the following beds:

"1. Superficial covering.

"2. Argillaceous shale, generally of a lightish colour and soft texture.

"3. Ditto, of harder texture, and more calcareous.

"4. Ditto, black, and highly fissile.

"5. Ditto, more compact, containing nodules of ironstone.

"6. Ironstone, extensively wrought.

"Beds 1 and 2 abound in vegetable remains, and the upper portion may be distinguished by the frequent occurrence of *Stigmaria scoides*. The ichthyolites are principally contained in No. 4, and consist of teeth, palatal bones, and scales, belonging to the Placoidian order, and to the Saurid and Lepidoidian families of the Ganoidian order of M. Agassiz.

"Some of the scales correspond precisely with those of the *Megalichthys*, described by Dr. Hibbert, from Burdichouse, near Edinburgh; but the plants associated with the ichthyolites, the author states on the authority of Professor Lindley, are entirely dissimilar from those found at Burdichouse.

"In No. 3 nodules occur, which Dr. Turner has ascertained to agree chemically with coprolites, though they do not present the external characteristic markings."

"On the Bones of Birds from the Strata of Tilgate Forest in Sussex. By Gideon Mantell, Esq.

"Mr. Mantell states, that soon after his attention was first directed to the fossils of the Wealden, he discovered in the strata of Tilgate Forest several slender bones, which, from their close resemblance to the tarso-metatarsal bones of certain Gallinæ or Waders, he was induced to refer to birds. The correctness of this opinion was afterwards doubted, in consequence of the thin fragile bones found at Stonesfield, and considered as belonging to birds, being ascertained to be those of Pterodactyles. Having subsequently discovered a few specimens of more decided character, Mr. Mantell submitted them to the inspection of Baron Cuvier, during his last visit to England, who pronounced them to belong to a Wader, probably to a species of *Ardea*. Still it was doubted whether these remains did really belong to those of birds; but the author's attention having recently been directed to the subject, he placed his specimens in the hands of Mr. Owen, of the College of Surgeons. This gentleman, after a careful examination, pointed out that one bone decidedly belonged to a Wader, being undoubtedly the distal extremity of a left tarso-metatarsal bone, presenting the articular surface or place of attachment of the posterior or opposable toe. Other specimens of long bones, Mr. Owen conceives, may have belonged to a more erpetoid form of bird than is now known. From this examination, Mr. Mantell's previous views of the existence of birds below the chalk have been fully established, and, as the author observes, these are the oldest remains of the class at present known. The memoir concludes with a description of the bones, consisting of a tarso-metatarsal of a Wader, a tibia (?), a metatarsal bone, a humerus, and an ulna."

"Remarks on the Coffin-bone (distal phalanx) of a Horse, from the Shingle Bed of the Newar Pliocene Strata of the Cliffs near Brighton. By Gideon Mantell, Esq.

"The deposits, which partially filled up the valley of the chalk, and constitute the subsoil of the central part of Brighton, as well as the line of cliffs extending from Brunswick Terrace

to Rottingdean, are divided by Mr. Mantell into the following beds:

"Top, 1. Elephant bed; an obscurely stratified mass, formed chiefly of chalk detritus, with a large intermixture of ochreous clay, and containing remains of the elephant, horse, buffalo and deer. This bed forms the greater portion of the cliff.

"2. An ancient shingle beach, consisting principally of pebbles and boulders of chalk flints, interspersed with boulders of many varieties of primary, secondary, and tertiary rocks.

"3. Sand resting upon chalk.

"The coffin-bone described in the paper was obtained from a fallen mass of the upper part of the shingle bed (2.), and in addition to that specimen the author procured an *astragalus, os calcis*, two canon bones, and a phalangeal. On comparing the coffin-bone with that of a young horse which had never been shod, no difference was perceptible, the outlines of each presenting the same beautiful form, and proving that no hereditary change has taken place in the feet of the domesticated race."

"Analysis of the Mineral Spring lately discovered near Oxford, and announced to the Society by Dr. Buckland, at the Meeting held on the 29th of April. By Dr. Daubeny.

"Dr. Daubeny says, the water at the time the analysis was made (March 26th) contained more sulphuric salts than any other spring in this country. The following were the saline contents of a pint of the water:

Chloride of sodium	70.82
— calcium	7.25
— magnesium	2.40
Sulphate of soda	52.40
	132.87

THEATRICALS

DRURY LANE.

This Evening, THE SIEGE OF ROCHELLE; after which THE JEW ESS; to conclude with WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT; or, Harlequin, Lord Mayor of London.—(Performances commence at half-past six).

COVENT GARDEN.

This Evening, THE CAMELITES; or, the Covent Belles; after which THE BRONZE HORSE; to conclude with a new Pantomime, called HARLEQUIN GUY FAWKES; or, the Fifth of November, (Harlequin Mx. F. C. Smith).

ENGLISH OPERA HOUSE.

This Evening, The drama of MINERALI; after which, first time at this Theatre, CUPID, GOD OF LOVE; to conclude with a new Pantomime, called RIDE A WHITE HORSE TO BARNBURY CROSS; or, Harlequin and the Lady with Belts at her Tons.

ADOLPHI THEATRE.—Mr. Jerrold's drama, called 'Doves in a Cage,' is a very delightful production. The plot is simple, natural, and interesting—the dialogue is clever, and the moral excellent. The characters (all, be it remarked, well drawn,) present a sufficient contrast of vice and virtue, without the one being carried to a revolting, or the other to a mawkish excess. Were dramas of this description more frequent on the stage, we venture to assert, that the most rigid would relax in their outcry against it. Those who want show, or noise, or murder, or blue and red fire, must not see this piece; but those who would like an hour and a half of rational entertainment, followed by the pleasing reflection, that their time has been well spent, should take care not to miss it. We wish that Mr. Jerrold would always write in this style, and that he would let us have more 'Doves in a Cage,' more 'Schoolfellows,' and fewer 'Hazards of the Die.' As it is a long time since we have seen a drama with which we have been more thoroughly gratified, so is it a long time since we have seen acting with which we have been more thoroughly satisfied. It is played extremely well by all concerned; but best, perhaps only because the part is the best, by Mrs. Nisbett. Her performance was very nearly all that it ought to be, and certainly nothing that it ought not. It was once, lady-like, natural, feeling,

powerful from the very absence of effort; in short, it was, like the piece, delightful. If our readers had to sit through as many bad plays as we are obliged to do in their service, they would be better able to judge of the relief it is to us to catch such a *rara avis*, as one in which entertainment and rationality are combined.

MISCELLANEA

Chemical Problem.—M. Biot has proposed in one of the sittings of the French Academy of Sciences, the following question to chemists. When crystals of pure tartaric acid are dissolved in different proportions of water, at a temperature of from twenty-two to twenty-six degrees centigrade, are there, or are there not, in this actual state of aqueous solution, molecular properties, depending on the proportions which constitute it? and if there are such, can the physical law be pointed out which will define or express them, for each given proportion of the two bodies? If this question should attract the attention, and lead to the researches of chemists, M. Biot has no doubt that the results would produce some very remarkable consequences. While waiting for the labours of others, he has lodged a sealed solution of this chemical problem in the hands of the French Academy of Sciences, obtained by himself, and which will be opened at the first sitting in December.

Fossil Remains.—In a letter written to M. Arago, and communicated by him to the French Academy of Sciences, a M. Bernard announces that some bones have been found in the cave of Gigny, between Bourg and Louis le Saunier, which were supposed to be fossil human remains. These remains have been sent to Paris, and the head has been examined by MM. Cordier, Flourens, and Dumeril, but these naturalists have not been able to find anything which entitles it to be called a fossil. By the side of these bones were found cinders and charcoal, and no antediluvian remains exist in the neighbourhood. It is probable that the cavern had been used as a catacomb.

New Classification of Animals.—M. de Humboldt has presented to the French Academy of Sciences, in the name of M. Ehrenberg, correspondent of the Academy in Berlin, a table, dividing the animal kingdom into 29 classes. This division is founded on the organization and generality of a type, lying in the sensitive, vascular, locomotive, nutritive, and propagative systems. Twenty-two of the groups belong to animals without vertebrae, which are divided according to the presence or absence of a heart, Cordata and Vasculosa. In the latter, the vessels do not present anything like pulsation, and the digestive organ is either simple and solitary, as in the Tubulata, or divided and multiform, as in the Racemosa. In the course of his travels in Syria, Nubia, Dongola, the Red and Caspian Seas, &c. M. Ehrenberg has had an opportunity of examining a number of organized beings, and has continued his microscopic researches since that period; but he only offers his table as a sketch capable of perfection, and successive developements.

Cuttle Fish.—M. D'Orbigny, who has been travelling in South America, has accurately described that species of cuttle-fish named *Sepia tunicata*, which has hitherto excited some doubt and astonishment among naturalists, and given rise to so many fables. He observed in the Chilean seas, and the whole of the Austral Ocean, a large Calmar, to which he gave the name of *Loligo gigas*. It is often thrown on the coast of Chili in considerable numbers, and, when dead, its external covering swells and detaches itself; so that it looks like a diaphanous membrane, which encircles the whole animal. This fully explains the vague and marvellous accounts we

have often received respecting this Mollusca. Montfort, according to his usual custom, made a separate species of it while in this state, and expatiated largely on its terrible claws, its ferocity, and its elegant tunic, &c. which enveloped it like a lantern.

Plant from Madagascar.—M. Benjamin Dessest, has presented to the French Academy of Sciences, a curious plant from Madagascar, sent to him by M. Goudot, now travelling for the French Museum. It belongs to the *Naiades*, and was first discovered by Du Petit Thouars, who gave it the name of *Ouvirenda Australis*. Its leaves are supported by long stalks, and are destitute of parenchyma, which gives them the appearance of lace; they are half a foot long, and a quarter of a foot wide; on each side of the principal nerve are five parallel nerves, crossed at right angles by a multitude of smaller nerves. This plant grows in the bay of Diego Soarez, in the water, and its roots are nourishing and agreeable to the palate.

Malachite.—The Baron de Humboldt has informed the French Academy of Sciences, that a large mass of malachite has been discovered in the copper mines of the MM. Demidoff, situated in the Uralian mountains. Two thousand five hundred and sixty pounds have been already taken from this deposit, and since its discovery, another has been found of enormous size, without a crack. This circumstance is rendered more important, by the entire failure of the vein of Malachite, in the mines of Goumetchefscoi.

[ADVERTISEMENT.]

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On the 1st of January will be published, Part I. price 2s. 6d., of 'The Pilgrims of the Rhine.' By the Author of 'Eugene Aram,' 'The Last Days of Pompeii,' &c.; with the splendid Embellishments.

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List of New Books.—The Book of Gems, 8vo. 21s. 6d.—The Pilgrims of the Rhine, 8vo. new edit. 21s. 6d.—The Scottish Annual, edited by W. Wier, 12mo. 10s. 6d.—A Garland of Love, small 8vo. 6s. 6d.; 7s. 6d.—Rodwell's Poetry for Children, sq. 16mo. 2s. 6d.—Rodwell's Spoiled Child, sq. 16mo. 2s. 6d.—Rodwell's Caroline, sq. 16mo. 2s. 6d.—The Sea, by R. Muller, royal 16mo. 5s.—Legends of the Coast of Spain, by the Author of 'The Sketch Book,' cr. 8vo. 9s. 6d.—Bismarck's General Turquoise Act, 3rd edit. 12mo. 9s.—The Young Travellers in South America, by the Author of 'Portugal and Spain,' post 8vo. 7s.—Bland's Elements of Latin Hexameters and Pentameters, 12th edit. 12mo. 3s.—Macintosh on Ethical Philosophy, with preface, by Whewell, 8vo. 9s.—The Soldier's Help to Knowledge of Divine Truth, a series of Discourses, by the Rev. G. B. Gleig, 12mo. 6s.—Thomson's London Dispensatory, 8th edit. 8vo. 18s.—Robertson on the Teeth, 8vo. 7s.—Joanna Baillie's Dramas, new series, 3 vols. 8vo. 36s.—Strickland's Tales and Stories from History, 2 vols. 16mo. 7s.—Kidd's Practical Introduction to Cookery, 16mo. 1s. 6d.—Three Courses and Desserts, new edit. cr. 8vo. 12s.—Illustrations of the Botany of the Himalayan Mountains, by T. Forbes Royle, Part VIII. imp. 4to. 20s. 6d.—The Medical Pocket Book, by John Foote, Jun. 3s. 6d.—Rosa Luck—Ranelli on the Bowdler, 12mo. 5s.—The Participle, a Romance, by the Author of 'Niserrima,' 2 vols. post 8vo. 21s.—Comic Almanac, for 1855 & 6, 6s. 6d.—Study of English Poetry, or a Choice Selection from the Poets of Great Britain, with a Treatise on English Versification, by A. Spens, 12mo. 5s. 6d.; fine paper, 6s. 6d.—Plato's Apology of Socrates, Crito, and Phaedo, translated by Charles Stuart Stanford, A.M. 8vo. 6s. 6d.—Ditto, Rhine, 8vo. 30s. 6d.; 40s. 6d.—Ditto, Thames, 4to. 25s. 6d.—Andrews's Lessons on Flower Painting, imp. 8vo. 16s.—Napoleon's Signatures, 4to. 6d.—Waterloo's Wanderings in South America, 3rd edit. 6s. 6d.—Catty's Jurors' Proceedings in Pleading, with Notes, Part I. royal 8vo. 21s.—The English Blyne Almanac, 1s. 6d. in a case.—The Poetical Sketch Book, by T. K. Hervey, 16mo. 8s. 6d.—The Protestant Dissenters' Juvenile Magazine, Vol. III. 1s. 6d. 6d.—The Fatal Interview, by Isaac Hurston, 12mo. 3s. 6d.—Kirkland's Gospel Notes royal 8mo. 3s.

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LAW LECTURES.—Professor PRESTON will commence his SECOND COURSE on TUESDAY, the 25th of January next, at 7 o'clock, P.M. precisely.
W. OTTER, M.A. Principal.
King's College, London, Dec. 23, 1855.

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